

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, :  
Plaintiff, :

vs. : Case No: 16-CR-282 TSH

[4] ROLANDO MILLAN-MACHUCA, :  
a/k/a Rolo, :

[6] MIGUEL RIVERA-CALCAÑO, :  
a/k/a Guelo, Kikirimiau, :

[7] ROBERTO CASADO-BERRIOS, :  
a/k/a Bobe, Bobel, :

[9] GIORDANO SANTANA-MELÉNDEZ, :  
a/k/a Viejo Ten, :

Defendants. :

: \_\_\_\_\_ :

TRANSCRIPT OF FURTHER JURY TRIAL  
HELD BEFORE THE HONORABLE JUDGE TIMOTHY S. HILLMAN  
CLEMENTE RUIZ-NAZARIO U.S. COURTHOUSE, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO  
MONDAY, JULY 2, 2018, BEGINNING AT 9:06 A.M.

: \_\_\_\_\_ :

A P P E A R A N C E S:

For the United States of America:

Assistant U.S. Attorney Victor O. Acevedo-Hernández

Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott H. Anderson

For Defendant [4] Rolando Millan-Machuca:

Attorney Lydia Lizarribar-Masini

For Defendant [6] Miguel Rivera-Calcaño:

Attorney José B. Vélez-Goveo

For Defendant [7] Roberto Casado-Berrios:

Attorney Jason González-Delgado

For Defendant [9] Giordano Santana-Meléndez:

Attorney Anita Hill-Adames

1       ALSO PRESENT:

2           Omar Flaquer, Courtroom Deputy Clerk

3           Enith Valdés, Court Interpreter

4           Mary Jo Smith, Court Interpreter

5           Carlos Laó, Government Interpreter

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Exhibits Admitted: Government's 22, 23, 7-A, 12-A,  
16-A, 16-B.

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1 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: All rise.

2 (The Court enters the room.)

3 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: The United States  
4 District Court for the District of Puerto Rico is now  
5 in session. All those having business before this  
6 Court shall draw near, give your attention, and you  
7 shall be heard. God save the United States of  
8 America and this Honorable Court. Honorable Judge  
9 Timothy Hillman presiding.

10 (The Jury enters the room.)

11 THE COURT: Good morning, has anybody had  
12 any difficulty following my instructions not to  
13 discuss the case with anyone including with each  
14 other? Has anybody seen or read or overheard  
15 anything touching on the case? And, finally, is  
16 there anything bearing upon your jury service you  
17 wish to bring to my attention? I will note there  
18 were no affirmative responses.

19 All right. Mr. Cruz-Santos, I'm going to  
20 remind you you're still under oath.

21 THE WITNESS: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Ms. Hill, you may continue.

23 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Good morning, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Good morning.

25 MS. HILL-ADAMES: May it please the Court.

1                   Good morning, members of the jury.

2                   Good morning Mr. Cruz-Santos.

3                                   ---

4                   ALEX MIGUEL CRUZ-SANTOS, a witness called on  
5                   behalf of the Government, having been previously duly  
6                   sworn by the Courtroom Deputy, was further examined  
7                   and testified as follows:

8                                   CROSS EXAMINATION

9                                   ---

10                  BY MS. HILL-ADAMES:

11                  Q.           Picking up where we left off Friday  
12                  afternoon, you agree with me that you arrived in the  
13                  prison more or less in 1993, correct?

14                  A.           Correct.

15                  Q.           And you also agree with me that inside the  
16                  prisons there's different prison groups?

17                  A.           There's different groups. They're separate  
18                  but, yes, they're different groups.

19                  Q.           And among those prison groups you have the  
20                  Ñetas?

21                  A.           Ñetas.

22                  Q.           You have the 25s?

23                  A.           The 25s.

24                  Q.           25s are the ones that are also known as the  
25                  *Insectos*?

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. They're a group and they're not known as the  
2 *Insectos*.

3 Q. You have the 27s?

4 A. 27s.

5 Q. And the 27s known as the *Insectos*?

6 A. I don't recognize them as the *Insectos*, I  
7 recognize them as a group.

8 Q. Is there a group that you know that goes by  
9 the name or nickname of *Insectos*?

10 A. What happens is that inside the prison  
11 population there's people that commit acts of rape,  
12 they're snitches, they make violent acts, so there's  
13 no group that accepts them and they're kept isolated.  
14 Prisons have modules that are just for those people.  
15 And there's group that they accept people, but they  
16 study the crimes to see how the crime originally  
17 occurred to see if the person really has to do with  
18 that crime.

19 Q. And there's also a group that goes by the  
20 name of 31s?

21 A. The 31s.

22 Q. And there's also another group, if you call  
23 it that, that are the inmates that are neutrals that  
24 don't belong to any group, correct?

25 A. Yes, there's groups of people that are

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 neutral that don't belong to any group that they're  
2 pretrial detainees and that they prefer to not be  
3 under the rules and norms of any group, that they  
4 prefer to be on their own.

5 Q. And you will agree with me that a problem  
6 with being a neutral is that within the prison then  
7 you don't really have a group that stands up for you  
8 or protects you if you're a neutral?

9 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Argumentative, Your  
10 Honor.

11 THE COURT: Overruled. You may answer.

12 A. Yes. Well, if you're neutral then the thing  
13 is that you don't go really into any prison in which  
14 the Ñeta, the 27s, the 31s or the 25s are the ones  
15 who govern, you go to a security module; because if  
16 you go to into prison and you're going into a group  
17 you have to go through a process and you have to  
18 present -- you have to submit your complaint and they  
19 study the complaint, and the group through which  
20 process you have to go through analyzes why you want  
21 to belong to that group. And you have to live by  
22 certain norms and rules and if you break those rules  
23 then you're going to have situations, you're going to  
24 have clashes.

25 BY MS. HILL-ADAMES:

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Q. So as a neutral it would be very difficult  
2 to live inside a prison, right?

3 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection.

4 Misstates, the testimony, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Sustained.

6 BY MS. HILL-ADAMES:

7 Q. Would it be difficult as a neutral to live  
8 inside a prison in Puerto Rico?

9 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection, Your  
10 Honor, again.

11 THE COURT: I think you've made your point.  
12 Sustained.

13 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Yes, Your Honor. Your  
14 Honor, may we approach briefly.

15 THE COURT: You may.

16 (Sidebar discussions begin.)

17 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Your Honor, I don't want  
18 to argue with him but, you know, it's a yes-or-no  
19 question. And he's just most of the time  
20 nonresponsive so, you know, I would like the Court to  
21 instruct him.

22 THE COURT: So I will say that that has been  
23 the rule not the exception with this witness.

24 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Yes.

25 THE COURT: All right, I'll give him an



Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 instruction.

2 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Thank you.

4 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: But some of these  
5 questions -- if I may add, some of these questions  
6 are not really yes or no. I was a neutral, well,  
7 he's got to explain; it's not going to be yes, no.

8 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Some are not but most are  
9 and he doesn't respond to the question.

10 (Sidebar discussions end.)

11 THE COURT: Mr. Cruz, I'm going to ask you  
12 to, if you would please listen carefully to Counsel's  
13 questions and if you can please answer the question  
14 directly in the form in which it's asked. And if you  
15 cannot answer the question directly please say so and  
16 I will have Counsel rephrase. Okay?

17 THE WITNESS: Okay.

18 BY MS. HILL-ADAMES:

19 Q. So when you arrived in prison you decided to  
20 join the Ñeta group, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you did this by choice?

23 A. I chose to do that.

24 Q. And you agree with me that the Ñetas have  
25 certain rules or have rules?

## Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. They have rules.

2 Q. And amongst those rules one of them is no  
3 stealing.

4 A. There's no stealing.

5 Q. Not looking at your fellow inmate as a girl.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. No murder for hire.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. No causing trouble.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Respect your mother and your father.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Not look at your fellow inmate's visitors?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do not abuse addicts.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do not abuse the weak.

18 A. Also.

19 Q. Respect the shout of the 30th of every  
20 month?

21 A. Yes, the 30th.

22 Q. What does the word Ñeta stand for?

23 A. Well, the Ñeta that's a -- it's like a war  
24 cry. It's a yell that's for unity, it's pleasure,  
25 it's anger, it's mostly -- it's unity and it's a war

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 cry.

2 Q. Amongst the other rules is no child abusers  
3 among the group.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. No rapists.

6 A. No rapists.

7 Q. And no inmates that are convicted of  
8 domestic violence.

9 A. Now they're being accepted. Law 54 they're  
10 now being accepted in the Ñeta group, as long as it's  
11 not in front of a minor.

12 Q. Okay. So, Mr. Cruz-Santos, you would agree  
13 with me that from what you know from being in the  
14 prison system for 25 years the Ñeta group came about  
15 from the terrible inhumane prison conditions that  
16 were being lived by the inmates.

17 A. No.

18 Q. Are you saying that the Ñeta group was not  
19 born in the early 1980s out of the abuses that the  
20 inmates were suffering from the Department of  
21 Corrections? Is that your testimony?

22 A. Yes, because of abuses from the Department  
23 of Corrections but also there existed rivalries  
24 between two groups, two masses, and one of the groups  
25 did one thing and the other group did other things.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 And when one inmate, Carlos Torres-Iriarte, didn't  
2 agree with what was happening he decided, and some of  
3 the other inmates they decided, that if they  
4 continued -- people continued with that attitude that  
5 they were going to act.

6 And what happened was that they faced each  
7 other, they faced each other in war, and there were  
8 some deaths. And in some of the groups that there  
9 were some deaths they ran to the officers and there  
10 was war between them, and that's when the corrections  
11 administration started to take that seriously and  
12 that's when they started to divide the groups.

13 And after this, after they're divided, so  
14 that they don't continue killing each other that's  
15 when the Ñeta association is born. And that scream  
16 on the 30th that the Ñeta population does is in the  
17 memory of Carlos Torres-Iriarte and it clarifies that  
18 it's for all the fallen brothers in pain.

19 Q. Sir, do you remember testifying before the  
20 grand jury in this case?

21 A. Can you repeat it.

22 Q. Do you remember testifying before a grand  
23 jury in this case?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And do you remember that a question was

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 posed to you and the question was, What was La  
2 Asociación Neta about?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And the answer you gave, Well by, that time  
5 it was a group that was devoted to assisting the weak  
6 and to fight for the inmate's rights against the  
7 abuse of the administration of corrections, yes or  
8 no?

9 A. Yes. But the weak --

10 Q. Yes or no?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Are you familiar with the massacre of Oso  
13 Blanco in 1994?

14 A. '94?

15 Q. Yes.

16 A. In '94, I was in the Green Monster, I wasn't  
17 there.

18 Q. But as an inmate are you familiar with the  
19 massacre of Oso Blanco in 1994?

20 A. No.

21 Q. You're not aware of what happened?

22 A. Well, what happened, what occurred at that  
23 time I wasn't in prison at that time. But --

24 Q. Sir, you were not in prison in 1994?

25 A. In Oso Blanco? In '94, like I said, I was

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 in prison in the Green Monster.

2 Q. That's not my question. My question is, if  
3 you were familiar with the massacre that occurred in  
4 Oso Blanco in 1994?

5 A. No. I said no.

6 Q. All right. Let's move on.

7 Sir, you would agree with me that among the  
8 things that happen on an everyday basis when you are  
9 in a Puerto Rico local prison is that sometimes  
10 there's a lack of quality in your living conditions,  
11 correct?

12 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection, Your  
13 Honor, relevance.

14 THE COURT: Overruled.

15 A. That's always existed.

16 BY MS. HILL-ADAMES:

17 Q. Let's talk about that.

18 Give me an example of the lack of living  
19 conditions in a prison cell.

20 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection, Your  
21 Honor, relevance.

22 THE COURT: I'll give you a little bit of  
23 latitude here, but let's loop it in.

24 A. Well, you have incomplete foods, there's a  
25 lack of social workers, and the medical area that

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 doesn't comply with its requirements.

2 Q. Is there sometimes spreads of diseases?

3 A. Well, there's the spread of the diseases  
4 among the population that use -- that are users and  
5 they use the same syringes. And there's rules in the  
6 Ñeta organization to avoid that spread of diseases  
7 when they're going to be shooting and they share  
8 needles.

9 Q. Are you aware of during your 25 years in  
10 prison when there's been tuberculosis?

11 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection,  
12 relevance, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Sustained.

14 Q. Are you aware where there's been spreads of  
15 Dengue, Chikungunya, stomach viruses?

16 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Relevance, Your  
17 Honor.

18 THE COURT: I'm going to ask you to tie this  
19 in.

20 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Yes, Your Honor, I'll move  
21 on.

22 BY MS. HILL-ADAMES:

23 Q. So you know my client Giordano Santana,  
24 correct?

25 A. Yes, I know him.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Q. And you know that he's been in prison for  
2 over 40 years, correct?

3 A. Yes, I know.

4 Q. And there was a time during when you were in  
5 prison that you coincided with him in the same  
6 prison, correct?

7 A. Two prisons.

8 Q. Which ones were those?

9 A. Ponce 1000 in Ponce, 2007. In the same  
10 module that I lived, I lived there with him and  
11 that's the first time that I met him. And later when  
12 I go into minimum custody that I go into Phase 1  
13 after several years then he's in there, in that  
14 prison.

15 Q. Okay. And he was introduced to you back in  
16 2007 as one of the older inmates.

17 A. Older and respected and one of the pillars,  
18 that he was there when things began in the battles.

19 Q. And you stated here that Giordano was like a  
20 dad to you, correct, yes or no?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. All right. And that you've also testified  
23 that because of his seniority because of all the time  
24 that he's been in prison he received a drug pension,  
25 yes or no?



Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. It was an order from the maximum leadership,  
2 yes.

3 Q. Right. And you were also told to make sure  
4 that he had his commissary, his personal hygiene  
5 items, correct, yes or no?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you personally, when you were in prison  
8 with him, were in charge of giving him his daily  
9 heroin drug dose, correct, yes or no?

10 A. It was an order.

11 Q. Yes or no?

12 A. It was an order -- yes.

13 Q. And this drug dose was given twice a day,  
14 yes or no?

15 A. Twice a day.

16 Q. And your testimony was that it was given in  
17 a restricted manner, correct, yes or no?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And because if you didn't give him a  
20 restricted doses he would probably overdose, correct?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Yes or no?

23 A. No. No.

24 Q. Would you agree with me that Giordano was a  
25 heroin addict?

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. He was an addict of heroin because he  
2 himself decided.

3 Q. Sir, my questions are yes or no.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. Would you agree with me that Giordano  
6 was a heroin junkie, yes or no?

7 A. Yes, he was a heroin addict.

8 Q. Would you agree with me that not all Ñeta  
9 members use drugs?

10 A. Not all of them use drugs.

11 Q. Would you also agree with me that not all  
12 Ñeta members sell drugs, yes or no?

13 A. Yes, not all of them.

14 Q. As a matter of fact, drugs are sold and  
15 brought in sometimes by Department of Corrections  
16 guards, yes or no?

17 A. Yes. A part of it, yes.

18 Q. By some civilian employees?

19 A. Some civil employees.

20 Q. Some nurses?

21 A. Also.

22 Q. And there's also other groups in prison that  
23 sell drugs as well, correct, yes or no?

24 A. I can't say yes because I don't belong to  
25 those groups. I belong to the Ñeta organization, so

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 I know what happens in the Ñeta organization.

2 Q. Can you say on your experience of being  
3 25 years in prison?

4 A. Based on my experience in prison, everything  
5 exists in prison. But I'm in the Ñeta group.

6 Q. Sir, would you agree with me that when a  
7 person is high on heroin, from your experience and  
8 your perception, this creates changes in the person's  
9 thoughts and feelings?

10 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection, Your  
11 Honor.

12 THE COURT: Sustained.

13 BY MS. HILL-ADAMES:

14 Q. How would you describe a person who's high  
15 on heroin?

16 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection, Your  
17 Honor.

18 THE COURT: Sustained.

19 BY MS. HILL-ADAMES:

20 Q. Would you agree with me that they disconnect  
21 from those around you?

22 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection again,  
23 Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Sustained.

25 BY MS. HILL-ADAMES:

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Q. Were you in charge of preparing the heroin  
2 table inside the prison at any point?

3 A. At some point, yes.

4 Q. And when you prepared the heroin decks or  
5 the baggies, is it not a fact that sometimes you  
6 would ask Giordano to try the quality of the heroin,  
7 yes or no?

8 A. There were people already there that existed  
9 that they tried the drugs. The drug that was given  
10 to Giordano in the institution had already been  
11 tested. And when the drug comes into the prison  
12 there's two persons that are called the testers, and  
13 they check the quality to make sure that it's worth  
14 the \$10.

15 Q. Sir, you would agree with me that whatever  
16 pension or donation that was set out for Giordano as  
17 an old prisoner it was consumed by drugs by him, yes  
18 or no?

19 A. Yes.

20 MS. HILL-ADAMES: That would be all, Your  
21 Honor.

22 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, may I  
23 approach before the next cross?

24 THE COURT: Are you done?

25 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Yes, Your Honor.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 THE COURT: Please.

2 (Sidebar discussions begin.)

3 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, during  
4 cross, Ms. Anita Hill's, cross --

5 THE COURT: Quietly.

6 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: During Anita Hill's  
7 cross she asked questions about the origins of the  
8 Ñeta organization, questions that elicited testimony  
9 about battles.

10 MS. HILL-ADAMES: No.

11 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Excuse me. The  
12 witness, and we can go to the record, testified as to  
13 battles and how that was an integral part of the  
14 formation of the organization, and that her client  
15 had been there since the origin. We submit to the  
16 Court that Ms. Hill has opened the door for that  
17 404(b) evidence that the Court excluded initially in  
18 our case in chief by eliciting that testimony during  
19 cross-examination, so we ask the Court's permission  
20 on redirect to ask the witness to clarify whether in  
21 fact her client, during those battles, had an active  
22 role and has any knowledge as to his participation in  
23 murders in those initial origins and stages of the  
24 organization.

25 THE COURT: Thank you. It's denied.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

(Sidebar discussions end.)

THE COURT: Mr. Vélez, on behalf of  
Mr. Rivera-Calcaño.

MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO: Good morning Your, Honor.  
May it please the Court.

CROSS EXAMINATION CONTINUED

---

BY MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO:

Q. Good morning, sir.

A. Good morning.

Q. During your testimony last Friday at a  
certain time you indicated on being questioned by the  
government -- strike that -- being questioned by  
sister counsel that in this business that you were  
cooperating with the government nothing is for sure.

A. There's nothing that's for sure because  
here --

Q. If I ask you for an explanation I will do  
that.

You further said that nothing, no one does  
anything voluntarily.

A. Yes. Yes.

Q. Do you remember your testimony?

A. Yes.

Q. And, sir, I ask you, in preparation for your

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 testimony during this trial, did you meet with the  
2 government several occasions, yes or no?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Multiple occasions.

5 A. One or other occasions, yes.

6 Q. And you were assisted by counsel.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And your counsel advised you.

9 A. He would go, yes.

10 Q. And --

11 A. He would talk to me about the normal  
12 processes, yes, the representation that he was going  
13 to do with me.

14 Q. And he also talked to you about the terms  
15 and conditions of your agreement, did he not?

16 A. Yeah, he explained to me the plea, the  
17 sentence of the plea.

18 Q. And based on those explanations that your  
19 attorney told you, you want to make sure that you do  
20 the right thing in order to get your end of the deal  
21 during your testimony.

22 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection,  
23 argumentative, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Overruled.

25 A. Well, I signed the cooperation plea.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 BY MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO

2 Q. But you want something in return, don't you?

3 A. In my mind, yes, of course. I want them to  
4 help me, yes.

5 Q. And as part of that help you hope that  
6 you're able to see your family, right?

7 A. At some point on some day I would like to  
8 see them, yes.

9 Q. And reunite with them, yes?

10 A. At some point, yes, that's what I would  
11 want.

12 Q. Is your mother still alive?

13 A. Thank God she's alive.

14 Q. And you love her.

15 A. Yes, I love her.

16 Q. You have children?

17 A. I have children.

18 Q. And you miss them.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Twenty-five years in jail, right?

21 A. Twenty-five years in prison.

22 Q. You want to make sure you get your end of  
23 the deal.

24 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Argumentative, Your  
25 Honor, misstates the evidence. What deal?



Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 THE COURT: Sustained.

2 BY MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO

3 Q. You want to make sure you get, as part of  
4 your testimony on behalf of the government, a  
5 benefit, yes or no?

6 A. There's nothing for sure.

7 Q. You want to make it sure, right?

8 A. I would try.

9 Q. Ten minutes ago during your testimony being  
10 cross-examined by sister counsel you stated that  
11 initially the Ñetas it was created in order to  
12 further the coexistence between the inmates that are  
13 in the prison jail -- that are in the prison system.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. As part of your testimony you have  
16 identified Cynthia "La Cana," right?

17 A. Cynthia González-Landrau, she's La Cana.

18 Q. And you have testified that Cynthia is a  
19 speaker for the Ñetas?

20 A. Yes, she's a speaker because she's in the  
21 free community. She's the one that takes the message  
22 to the secretary of corrections of any situation.

23 Q. Either by speaking or meeting with the  
24 secretary of corrections, right?

25 A. Yes, correct.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Q. And address problems with jail conditions.

2 A. The ones that are given to her she takes to  
3 the secretary and the secretary then tends to  
4 whatever can arise.

5 Q. She also spoke about medical problems within  
6 the institution.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Problems with probation officers.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Problems with food supply. You even  
11 mentioned a company by the name of Trinity.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Abuse by police officers.

14 A. There have been abuses by police officers.

15 Q. That's not my question.

16 My question is, as part of Cynthia being a  
17 speaker has she addressed, to your knowledge,  
18 concerns about abuse by police officers to inmates,  
19 based on your knowledge?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Has Cynthia addressed problems by illegal  
22 searches with the secretary of corrections?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Sir, I ask you, within the members of the  
25 Ñeta organization you have drug sellers.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. Within the organization, yes, you have  
2 people who have the organization's trust who tend to  
3 that type of business.

4 Q. And you said there are testers or  
5 *probadores*?

6 A. In the chapters that are associated to the  
7 Ñetas there's a rule that there has to be testers,  
8 that these testers have to test the drugs to make  
9 sure that the quality is good. If the quality is bad  
10 then that drug has to be taken out and cannot be  
11 given to the population.

12 Q. And that's important to set the price of the  
13 drug.

14 A. Well, that's stipulated by the maximum  
15 leadership and the maximum leadership, well, they  
16 have these norms, and leaders that they set up have  
17 to follow it as it is.

18 Q. Let me ask you to be responsive, yes or no.  
19 My questions are simply yes or no most of them.

20 Testers are important to set the price of  
21 the drugs; isn't that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And the testers, the *probadores*, they ought  
24 to know the drug.

25 A. There's inmates that come in from the free

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 community that are already addicts and so they come  
2 into prison and they continue being addicts.

3 Q. And so you identify a marijuana user and you  
4 give them the marijuana to test the quality of the  
5 marijuana.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. You do the same thing with the cocaine user.

8 A. It's not the same thing, it's not tested the  
9 same.

10 Q. But the person requires to know the cocaine.

11 A. It's not required that they recognize it.

12 Q. The high that the cocaine gives.

13 A. It's different.

14 Q. So the person must know about the kind of  
15 high?

16 A. They have to know it, yes, that's right.

17 Q. And the heroin addict as well.

18 A. Heroin and cocaine, that's right.

19 Q. And, again, that's important in order to be  
20 able to set the price on the different types of  
21 drugs.

22 A. Yes, so it's within the rules that the  
23 organization establishes. It has to be like that.

24 MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO: May I have a moment, Your  
25 Honor.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 (Defense counsel confer.)

2 Q. I ask you, sir, within the members of the  
3 Ñetas there were members that were *probadores* or  
4 testers.

5 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Asked and answered,  
6 Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Sustained.

8 BY MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO

9 Q. Sir, let me address your attention to what  
10 you said about being a member of the Ñeta, the  
11 qualifiers if you will. In order to be a Ñeta member  
12 you had to be someone respected, part of the  
13 qualities of the members of the Ñetas.

14 A. Well, to be a member of the Ñeta the crimes  
15 that you had -- well, before you couldn't be a --

16 Q. If I ask for an explanation --

17 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor,  
18 objection. That was an open-ended question that he  
19 posed.

20 THE COURT: Well, the answer was  
21 nonresponsive, so let's try it again.

22 BY MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO

23 Q. As part of the qualifiers to be a member of  
24 the group Ñeta the member had to be within the -- the  
25 qualities a person must possess to be a respected

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 person within the organization.

2 A. No.

3 Q. Someone reliable.

4 A. Well, to be in the organization of the Ñetas  
5 you have to have certain crimes. You have to have  
6 killed a police officer, robbed a bank, you have to  
7 have been one of the kingpins selling drugs, or  
8 having gone to a house to steal. I mean, there's  
9 certain crimes in order to qualify. You can't have  
10 been a snitch, you can't have raped a girl.

11 Q. That's right, you can't have a snitch as a  
12 Ñeta member. I just want to make sure that I  
13 understood you.

14 A. You can't be a snitch.

15 Q. Well, you said you were a leader within the  
16 organization, were you not?

17 A. Yes, I was a leader in the organization.

18 Q. And during that time you had to deal with  
19 several snitches, didn't you?

20 A. They wouldn't reach the population because  
21 the correction officers they have the control that  
22 when they arrive --

23 MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO: Your Honor --

24 A. There's people that exist that are in the  
25 institution --

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO: I'm going to ask Your  
2 Honor to instruct the witness to be responsive.

3 THE COURT: Mr. Cruz-Santos, please listen  
4 carefully to the lawyer's questions and if you can  
5 answer them in the form that they're asked, please  
6 do. And if you can't answer them, just tell me and  
7 I'll ask to rephrase.

8 THE WITNESS: Okay.

9 THE COURT: Try it again.

10 BY MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO:

11 Q. During the time that you were a leader did  
12 you have to deal with snitches?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And as part of your dealing with the *chotas*  
15 you sent them away, didn't you?

16 A. I wouldn't send them away.

17 Q. But you had the authority and the means to  
18 be able to transfer an inmate to a different  
19 location.

20 A. No.

21 Q. Special housing unit, were you able to set  
22 them in special housing units?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did you let them take over your role as a  
25 leader?

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. No. When I find --

2 Q. That's fine.

3 So you kept the control, you maintained the  
4 control?

5 A. No. I had to report the situation to the  
6 maximum leadership. When you find the snitch you  
7 have to call the maximum leadership, *Papito Machuca*,  
8 *Cigueña*, *Bambani*, and let them know about what's  
9 happening in that situation. They meet and they call  
10 you on your cell phone and, being the leader, you  
11 explain to them the situation that you have with that  
12 inmate, and they make a determination over there, an  
13 internal determination, if they deserve death or to  
14 lock them up. If they decide to lock him up, then,  
15 as leader, I notify the sergeant or the  
16 superintendent who's on shift, on duty, that there's  
17 problems with this inmate.

18 The sergeant, lieutenant, superintendent,  
19 they take care of the matter, they get him out of the  
20 institution. And the process they have with them is  
21 to take them to a security module. That's how that  
22 operates.

23 Q. So you were able to deal with different  
24 situations, with different snitches just the way you  
25 explained?



Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. Well, different ones, yes, and other cases  
2 too.

3 Q. There were different institutions where you  
4 had been.

5 A. In many institutions.

6 Q. Has Zarzal been one of them?

7 A. No.

8 Q. During your testimony last week, Thursday if  
9 I'm not mistaken, you did say that you were  
10 conscience or you knew that there were no drugs in  
11 Zarzal; do you remember that?

12 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection, Your  
13 Honor. That's misstating the evidence.

14 THE COURT: Sustained. I'll let you go  
15 there but rephrase please.

16 BY MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO:

17 Q. Are you aware of any drugs personally?  
18 Personal knowledge, I'm asking you personal  
19 knowledge. Are you aware of any drugs in the Zarzal  
20 institution?

21 A. Yes, in Zarzal.

22 Q. So you're stating today, contrary to what  
23 you stated before --

24 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection,  
25 argumentative.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 THE COURT: Sustained.

2 BY MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO:

3 Q. Sir, I ask you how long have you been -- how  
4 much time have you spent in Zarzal?

5 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection, Your  
6 Honor.

7 THE COURT: Overruled.

8 A. None. None.

9 BY MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO

10 Q. Never.

11 Briefly I'm going to address your attention  
12 what you designated or called as "Western." Do you  
13 remember that?

14 A. Yes, the Western Unions.

15 Q. Isn't it true that the Western was used to  
16 pay cigarettes?

17 A. Not cigarettes.

18 Q. Canned foods?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Commissary?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Cell phones?

23 A. Cell phones.

24 Q. TVs?

25 A. Yes.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Q. PlayStations?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Hygiene material?

4 A. No.

5 Q. You said during your testimony that upon  
6 being questioned by the government that you know  
7 Miguel Rivera-Calcaño.

8 A. Not personally.

9 Q. At some point you were called by someone, by  
10 a third party, and told you that you were going to  
11 receive a call from Miguel Rivera-Calcaño.

12 A. What happens is that --

13 Q. Yes or no?

14 A. No.

15 Q. You were never called by anyone that you  
16 were going to receive a call by Miguel  
17 Rivera-Calcaño?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you remember your testimony during the  
20 first trial back in 2007 -- in 2017 -- strike that --  
21 in 2017 when you were asked, Who initially called you  
22 to give you the heads-up that Miguel Rivera-Calcaño  
23 was going to call you?

24 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection. He  
25 hasn't laid a foundation for any inconsistent

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 statement, so it's improper impeachment Your, Honor.

2 THE COURT: Overruled.

3 A. Yes, what happens is that --

4 BY MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO

5 Q. Yes or no?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you remember that the person that you  
8 stated back then the name that you gave was Fernan  
9 Sandwich?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you remember that during your testimony  
12 now during this trial that you said that the person  
13 that called you to tell you that you were going to  
14 receive a call by Miguel Rivera-Calcaño was Cigueña?

15 A. Cigueña. What happens is that --

16 Q. Yes or no?

17 A. Well --

18 Q. I'm not asking for an explanation.

19 A. Yes. Yes.

20 Q. And Fernan Sandwich and Cigueña are two  
21 different people.

22 A. Yes, different ones.

23 Q. And I ask you, sir, have you ever seen  
24 physically Miguel Rivera-Calcaño?

25 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Asked and answered,

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Your Honor.

2 A. I always said that no.

3 MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO: I have no further  
4 questions with the witness, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Attorney González on behalf of  
6 Casado-Berrios.

7 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Yes, Your Honor.  
8 Good morning.

9 THE COURT: Good morning.

10 CROSS EXAMINATION CONTINUED

11 ---

12 BY MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO:

13 Q. Mr. Cruz, you stated that you've never been  
14 in Zarzal, correct?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Do you know that Mr. Roberto Casado-Berrios  
17 has been in Zarzal since 2007?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. Now, you say that in 1994 you were in  
20 Monstruo Verde, the translation is Green Monster,  
21 which is the maximum security prison in Ponce; is  
22 that correct?

23 THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter needs  
24 repetition.

25 Q. Yes. That you stated before that in 1994

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1       you were in Monstruo Verde, the Green Monster, the  
2       maximum security prison in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

3               MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:  Objection to the  
4       translation.

5               THE INTERPRETER:  What year?

6               MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO:  1994.

7       A.       In '94, October 7 is when I arrived to the  
8       Green Monster.

9       Q.       And the truth is that you were never in the  
10      same building as Mr. Roberto Casado-Berrios when you  
11      were in maximum security in Ponce, correct?

12      A.       Not in the same module.

13      Q.       So you've never been in the same cell as  
14      Mr. Casado-Berrios, correct?

15      A.       But we would spend time together in the  
16      passage, in the hallways, and I would go to his  
17      module and he would go to mine.

18      Q.       In a maximum security prison?

19      A.       We would spend time together during sports,  
20      boxing, basketball, and also I would go to his module  
21      and he would go to mine and we would talk and we  
22      would see each other face-to-face.  And we were  
23      persons that -- well, we really liked each other, and  
24      that was in the Green Monster.  And I also went with  
25      him to the administration to talk about some packages

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 that weren't coming through, they weren't coming  
2 through to the population.

3 Q. Isn't it true that in maximum security you  
4 do not have permission to go out of your cell except  
5 to take a bath and to maybe go to the doctor's  
6 appointment?

7 A. No.

8 Q. So, you're telling the Ladies and Gentlemen  
9 of the Jury that in maximum security, in a maximum  
10 security prison known as Monstruo Verde in Ponce, you  
11 have free access to all areas in the prison?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Now, didn't you state on Friday that in  
14 maximum security prisons you only go out to take a  
15 bath or to a medical appointment once the guards have  
16 made sure that you have no quarrels or segregation  
17 with other inmates?

18 A. That's a security module. In maximum  
19 security prison where I was it would open from 6:00  
20 to 6:00 because there were two inmates per cell and  
21 some agreements were made with the Department of  
22 Corrections because the cell was too small to have  
23 two inmates. So there the cells would open from 6:00  
24 in the morning or 7:00-something in the morning and  
25 they would be locked at 6:00 in the afternoon.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1           And that agreement was done with a good  
2           behavior so that we could keep it like that from 6:00  
3           to 6:00 and that way you could spend time together  
4           and go into other modules but other modules that  
5           belonged to the Ñeta Organization not that had to do  
6           with other organizations.

7           Q.           Weren't you housed in Building C-5?

8           A.           In C-5.

9           Q.           And was it -- wasn't Mr. Casado-Berrios  
10          housed in Building A-5?

11          A.           Yes. They're right next to each other but  
12          face-to-face. It's one and then you have the hallway  
13          and the other one's right in front of it.

14          Q.           But between these two buildings there's a --  
15          there are four different gates in order for you to  
16          get from one building to the other.

17          A.           And an elevator in between to be able to go  
18          down. You go to the gates and you say, Officer, I'm  
19          going to A-5 and he opens the two gates and you go  
20          over there. That's how it was during the time that I  
21          was living there with him.

22          Q.           So it's fair to say that you had free access  
23          in a maximum security prison in Ponce, in 1994?

24          A.           Yes.

25          Q.           Okay. Now, in this case or before this case



Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1     you said you started cooperating in 2012, correct?

2     A.           Mid.

3     Q.           Okay. And the reason was because you were  
4     caught with something illegal in jail, correct?

5     A.           Yes, with some chips.

6     Q.           And since that's illegal that had a serious  
7     consequence on your possibilities for parole.

8     A.           Mostly, yes.

9     Q.           And because of this you did not want to have  
10    that possibility -- not destroyed -- have that  
11    possibility disappear is the reason why you decided  
12    to cooperate.

13    A.           In the state court, yes.

14    Q.           Because if -- if you're in jail and they  
15    catch you with something illegal state court takes  
16    care of those cases; is that correct?

17    A.           If the case merits going to court then it  
18    goes to court; if not, then it stays internally as a  
19    complaint.

20    Q.           Okay. And then you say that you told the  
21    Department of Corrections that you were willing to  
22    cooperate.

23    A.           Yes, to an officer.

24    Q.           And in exchange for that cooperation what  
25    you wanted was not to have them process you for that

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 illegal chip that they had found on you; is that  
2 correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. But unfortunately the Department of  
5 Corrections didn't comply with their part of the  
6 deal.

7 A. They didn't comply.

8 Q. And then that's when you decide to go and  
9 cooperate with the Federal Government.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Because you thought there were more serious  
12 charges that were pending against you.

13 A. I didn't know.

14 Q. But you knew that the Department of  
15 Corrections were pressuring you to provide more  
16 serious or more detailed information as to what you  
17 thought was illegally happening in these jails; is  
18 that correct?

19 A. They wanted stronger things and more  
20 continuous.

21 Q. But that information, from what you have  
22 stated, was information that was dangerous to you as  
23 a Ñeta member in jail, correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay, but on your first cooperation with the

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Department of Corrections you personally requested  
2 the Department of Corrections not to process you for  
3 those chips that were found, is that correct, in  
4 exchange for your cooperation.

5 A. They processed me anyway.

6 Q. That's not my question.

7 My question is --

8 A. That was my idea.

9 Q. And that was your request.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And then you have the Federal  
12 Government come in and try to have you as a witness;  
13 is that correct?

14 A. I arrived to the Federal Government. I --

15 Q. You called them?

16 A. I made the approach.

17 Q. Through an illegal cell phone in jail?

18 A. Yes, to a corrections officer.

19 Q. Either it's through an illegal cell phone  
20 that you called the Feds or was it that you spoke  
21 with a correctional officer to have the Feds come and  
22 talk to you?

23 A. Through a correctional officer.

24 Q. Okay. So you went to tell the Federal  
25 Government that in exchange for my cooperation, I

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 want to get out of jail.

2 A. No.

3 Q. You just stated that, I just want to  
4 cooperate, that's it.

5 A. I wanted to talk, talk to them.

6 Q. Nothing in exchange?

7 A. They didn't know me and I didn't know them,  
8 I just wanted to talk.

9 Q. You wanted to sit down with them to  
10 negotiate a plea agreement or a way of getting out of  
11 jail; is that correct?

12 A. First I wanted to talk to them to inform  
13 them on the situation.

14 Q. Because you did not want to stay in jail  
15 anymore; is that correct?

16 A. Well, that was what I was thinking.

17 Q. And you expressly told the federal agent who  
18 met with you that in exchange for your cooperation  
19 you wanted to get out of jail; is that correct?

20 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection, Your  
21 Honor, may I approach.

22 THE COURT: Sure.

23 (Sidebar discussions begin.)

24 THE COURT: I think if we ask

25 Mr. Cruz-Santos what time it was he'd tell us how to

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 build a watch.

2 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, my  
3 petition from the Court is that the way the defense  
4 counsel is asking these questions it's as if he has a  
5 good-faith basis that this in fact happened. I, as  
6 the prosecutor who has handled this investigation,  
7 have no knowledge of this having happened, so I  
8 request that defense counsel produce what is his  
9 good-faith basis for questioning because the manner  
10 he's questioning, he's giving the impression to the  
11 jury that this in fact happened. There's no  
12 good-faith basis for these types of questions unless  
13 he has something.

14 THE COURT: All he's asking him is the basis  
15 upon which he made his deal. Why wouldn't that be  
16 fair game?

17 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Because the way he's  
18 asking it is in a manner like he in fact went to the  
19 federal agent and requested a lower deal, a lower  
20 sentence. And we submit that he -- there has to be a  
21 good-faith basis. If he wants to ask an open-ended  
22 question and he's not giving the impression that this  
23 in fact happened we have no objection.

24 THE COURT: If you ask this witness an  
25 open-ended question we will be here into until

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Christmas.

2 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: I know, Your Honor,  
3 but he doesn't have any good-faith basis for it  
4 because --

5 Do you have any knowledge that he in fact  
6 did that to Terri James? because I don't and I was  
7 the prosecutor in charge of this case.

8 THE COURT: What do you want to say?

9 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: I'm asking him  
10 questions and I'm working on the answers that he's  
11 providing.

12 THE COURT: Quietly please. Do you have a  
13 basis upon which this guy entered into these  
14 negotiations?

15 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Yes, his answers.  
16 When he was on direct examination --

17 THE COURT: In discovery or on your  
18 investigation?

19 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: In my investigation?  
20 Your Honor, his testimony last week he said no one  
21 does anything for anybody.

22 THE COURT: How much longer are you going to  
23 be on this line of questioning?

24 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: May half an hour,  
25 Your Honor.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 THE COURT: How much longer on this line of  
2 questions?

3 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: It -- maybe five more  
4 minutes, but I don't think --

5 THE COURT: I'm going to -- I'll watch this  
6 carefully but right now I'm going to let him continue  
7 down this path.

8 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Thank you.

9 THE COURT: Thank you.

10 (Sidebar discussions end.)

11 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: If I may, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Yes, please.

13 BY MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO:

14 Q. Mr. Cruz, when you met with the federal  
15 agent to testify or to ask him to use you as a  
16 witness -- a cooperator you had an idea in mind and  
17 that idea was that you did not want to stay in jail  
18 anymore; is that correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And the agent told you that she could not  
21 promise you anything; is that correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And because it's the prosecutor who makes  
24 the promises; is that correct?

25 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection, Your

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Honor.

2 THE COURT: Sustained.

3 BY MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO:

4 Q. Did the agent tell you that she had to go  
5 over this with a prosecutor?

6 A. The information, yes, the information.

7 Q. Were you represented by counsel at this  
8 meeting?

9 A. With the prosecutor or with the federal  
10 agent?

11 Q. First with the agent.

12 A. No.

13 Q. Okay. Then they told you that you were  
14 going to meet with the prosecutor; is that correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Did you ask for legal counsel or was legal  
17 counsel provided to you?

18 A. At that moment I did not ask for legal  
19 representation.

20 Q. But in fact an attorney went to speak to you  
21 related to that cooperation that you were willing to  
22 give; is that correct?

23 A. Afterwards.

24 Q. After the meeting with the case agent or  
25 after the meeting with the prosecutor?



Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. After the meeting with the prosecutor.

2 Q. Okay. And in that first meeting did you  
3 provide the information that you were willing to give  
4 to the prosecutor?

5 A. I began to provide information.

6 Q. Did you have a proffer letter at that moment  
7 from the government?

8 A. I didn't understand.

9 Q. Okay. You say that you met with the  
10 prosecutor first -- I mean after you met with the  
11 case agent; is that correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And in that first meeting you already stated  
14 that you never had legal counsel at the time.

15 A. No.

16 Q. My question after was if you had a proffer  
17 letter before you had legal counsel, from the  
18 government?

19 A. No.

20 Q. So after that first meeting you were told  
21 that you would have subsequent meetings with the  
22 government; is that correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. But at that time you were provided with  
25 legal counsel.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. No.

2 Q. When did you receive legal counsel for this  
3 case, for your cooperation?

4 A. When I was incarcerated in MDC, that's when  
5 I had legal representation from an attorney.

6 Q. And so you're telling the ladies and  
7 gentlemen that for four years you provided  
8 information to the government without any legal  
9 representation?

10 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Misstating the  
11 evidence, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Sustained.

13 BY MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO:

14 Q. Okay. You started cooperating in 2012,  
15 correct?

16 A. With the state jurisdiction in mid 2012 I  
17 began to cooperate with Corrections at the state  
18 level.

19 Q. When did you start cooperating with -- what  
20 year did you start cooperating with the Federal  
21 Government?

22 A. When I sat with the Federal Government with  
23 a federal agent, I sat down face-to-face to talk,  
24 that was in 2015. To talk.

25 Q. A year before you were indicted.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. A year before.

2 Q. How many times did you meet with the  
3 government before you were indicted?

4 A. State level or federal?

5 Q. Federal level.

6 A. With the Feds that was in May that I -- I  
7 can't really say the exact month but with the federal  
8 agent.

9 Q. My question is, how many times did you meet  
10 with the Federal Government before you were indicted?

11 A. Two or three times.

12 Q. And in those meetings the prosecutor never  
13 gave you an informal or a formal agreement, a  
14 cooperation agreement?

15 A. What I was given was a plea agreement and a  
16 cooperation plea and the attorney gave it to me. He  
17 explained to me and regarding the documents --

18 Q. Mr. Cruz.

19 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: I haven't posed my  
20 question, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: We're going to take our break  
22 right here.

23 So, ladies and gentlemen, we're going to  
24 take a morning break and we will see you back here in  
25 20 minutes.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 (The Court and Jury exit the room.)

2 (Jury trial recessed at 10:30 a.m. and  
3 resumed at 10:54 a.m.)

4 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: All rise.

5 (The Court enters the room.)

6 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, may I be  
7 heard on a matter.

8 THE COURT: Quickly, please.

9 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: I'm just  
10 instructing from the Court an instruction to the  
11 jury -- requesting an instruction to the jury as to  
12 there's nothing improper with any of the parties  
13 meeting with the witnesses in preparation; because  
14 they're trying to make a big deal that the United  
15 States met with the witnesses and there's an  
16 instruction as to that. I don't know if the Court  
17 wants to wait and include that in the final  
18 instructions.

19 THE COURT: I was planning on putting it  
20 into the final instruction. Let's see how we do  
21 here. I didn't get that implication from that. I  
22 will look and see what happens with this as we move  
23 forward.

24 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

25 (The Jury enters the room.)

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 THE BAILIFF: You may be seated.

2 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: May I.

3 THE COURT: You may.

4 BY MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO:

5 Q. Okay, Mr. Cruz, your last statement was --  
6 your last answer was that you only received the plea  
7 and cooperation agreement in this case as a result of  
8 your cooperation; is that correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You weren't promised that no state charges  
11 would be filed against you?

12 A. No state, no.

13 Q. That no revocation proceedings were going to  
14 be held against you.

15 A. Revocation? I don't understand.

16 Q. Sorry. Let me rephrase the question.

17 No promises were made that administrative  
18 measures would be taken against you; is that correct?

19 A. Administrative measures, no.

20 Q. You weren't going to be punished for the  
21 information that you were providing, is that right,  
22 by the Department of Corrections?

23 A. Yes, but they didn't comply.

24 Q. I'm talking about after. Once you're  
25 already cooperating with the Federal Government, were

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1     you promised that no administrative procedures would  
2     be held against you if you provided information to  
3     the government?

4     A.           It's just that there were no administrative  
5     procedures.

6     Q.           But you were committing crimes in jail,  
7     isn't that correct, at the time that you were  
8     providing information to the government?

9     A.           Yes.

10    Q.           Okay. And my question is, you were not  
11    promised that you would not be processed for these  
12    crimes that you were committing with the government's  
13    knowledge?

14    A.           Yes, I'm here processed.

15    Q.           But that was the only -- the only thing that  
16    they told you was that -- okay, let me rephrase the  
17    question.

18                Were you told that you were going to be  
19    processed and indicted as a Ñeta member for the  
20    information that you were providing?

21    A.           That I was going to be charged.

22    Q.           And you were waiting for that?

23    A.           After a time, after we're talking and  
24    everything that the attorney explained it to me, he  
25    said, yes, that I was going to be charged.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: There's a missing  
2 translation there. He said that --

3 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection.

4 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: It was before.

5 THE COURT: Sustained. Ask him to repeat  
6 his answer.

7 Q. Could you repeat the answer, please.

8 A. Yes. When the attorney talked to me and  
9 after the whole process he said that, yes, that I was  
10 going to be charged when he placed the plea in front  
11 of me.

12 Q. So you received the plea agreement before  
13 you were charged.

14 A. No, afterwards about two weeks that he  
15 explained the plea to me in front of me, the two of  
16 us facing each other.

17 Q. But the truth is that you have nothing in  
18 writing as to a promise that was made to you as --  
19 not payment -- in exchange for your cooperation?

20 A. Nothing written. There was no type of  
21 promise, I just signed the cooperation plea.

22 Q. Just the plea supplement, correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. You weren't promised that you would  
25 have a better classification in jail for your

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 cooperation?

2 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor,  
3 objection.

4 THE COURT: Sustained.

5 BY MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO:

6 Q. Were you told, were you verbally told, that  
7 you would be released from jail if you cooperated in  
8 this case?

9 A. Never.

10 Q. You're sure of that?

11 A. I'm sure.

12 Q. Never spoke with anybody that you were going  
13 to be --

14 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection, Your  
15 Honor.

16 THE COURT: Let him finish the question,  
17 please.

18 BY MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO:

19 Q. Did you ever speak with anybody and tell  
20 them that you were going to be released from jail  
21 because you were going to cooperate in this case?

22 A. Well, no.

23 Q. Were you paid any cash for the information  
24 that you were providing?

25 A. Never.



Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Q. Were you paid in commissary in jail as part  
2 of your cooperation agreement?

3 A. Never.

4 Q. Were you -- now, while you're cooperating  
5 you were actually deceiving the Department of  
6 Corrections; is that correct?

7 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Argumentative, Your  
8 Honor.

9 THE COURT: Sustained.

10 BY MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO:

11 Q. When you were cooperating you were  
12 committing crimes that the Department of Corrections  
13 had no idea you were committing; is that correct?

14 A. The crimes that I committed at the  
15 institution was because I was a leader and I received  
16 instructions from the maximum leadership. They knew  
17 that I --

18 Q. They knew that you hid from the Department  
19 of Corrections.

20 A. You have to hide them.

21 Q. And at the same time you were hiding from  
22 the Ñetas the fact that you were cooperating with the  
23 Department of Corrections and the Federal Government.

24 A. Yes. I couldn't tell them that I was  
25 cooperating.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Q. So at the same time you were hiding  
2 information from both Los Ñetas and from the  
3 government.

4 A. I didn't understand.

5 Q. You were not telling the Department of  
6 Corrections that you were dealing in drugs as part of  
7 your Ñeta membership; is that correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. And you weren't telling the  
10 government that you continue to participate as a Ñeta  
11 member, is that correct, with your full  
12 responsibilities, as you have stated in court?

13 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor,  
14 objection. Which government?

15 THE COURT: Sustained. I'll let you go  
16 there just break it into small pieces, please.

17 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Yes.

18 BY MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO:

19 Q. Did you hide from the Federal Government the  
20 fact that you're continuing to be a Ñeta member with  
21 full responsibilities as you have stated in your  
22 testimony here?

23 A. All the information I would give them,  
24 everything that was required I would give to them.  
25 All the information.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Q. And from the state government did you  
2 provide them that information also?

3 A. I also gave information to the state  
4 government.

5 Q. Okay, you gave some information or all  
6 information?

7 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection. To whom?  
8 It's not clear from the question, Your Honor.

9 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: To the state, that  
10 was the follow-up question, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Overruled.

12 A. I would give information to the state  
13 government, information that I didn't have within my  
14 reach I didn't give. There was information that I  
15 had within my reach and others that I didn't. What I  
16 didn't have, I didn't give them.

17 Q. But you stated yesterday -- I mean on Friday  
18 that you did not voluntarily provide information to  
19 the state court that you were actually dealing in  
20 drugs while you were in jail?

21 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: And I'm talking about  
22 Department of Corrections, Your Honor, I'm sorry.  
23 Let me rephrase the question.

24 Q. Did you state on Friday that you did not  
25 voluntarily provide information to the Department of

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Corrections that you continue to commit crimes in the  
2 name of Los Ñetas?

3 A. Voluntary.

4 Q. Like you said, if they don't ask, you don't  
5 tell.

6 A. Yes, they would ask and you had to tell.

7 Q. That's not my question. My question was, if  
8 they don't ask, you do not voluntarily state -- make  
9 statements to them.

10 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection.

11 A. Yes, I did make statements.

12 THE COURT: Sustained.

13 BY MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO:

14 Q. Didn't you testify previously to the  
15 question of why are you cooperating -- do you  
16 remember having testified before a judge in a similar  
17 case before, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you remember having been asked a  
20 question, Why are you cooperating?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you remember giving the answer that, I am  
23 cooperating because I have been in prison my whole  
24 life and now I have this and I am seeking better  
25 accomodation in my sentence federal or state?

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. But even though you have stated that you  
3 have no promises whatsoever or no agreements that  
4 that will actually happen if you testify?

5 A. No.

6 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: I have no further  
7 questions.

8 THE COURT: Ms. Lizarribar on behalf of  
9 Mr. Millan-Machuca.

10 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Your Honor.

11 Good morning.

12 CROSS EXAMINATION CONTINUED

13 ---

14 BY MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI:

15 Q. Sir, while you were in jail and you sold  
16 drugs you made money, correct?

17 A. I earned money and also the Ñeta  
18 organization.

19 Q. Let me ask you about your money. You made  
20 money, personal money, correct?

21 A. I earned money.

22 Q. Which you kept, correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. And you used that -- you used that  
25 gain for buying a car, correct?

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. Yes, I bought a car.

2 Q. And for whom did you buy that car?

3 A. For the person that was visiting me at that  
4 time.

5 Q. Was she your wife?

6 A. No, a friend.

7 Q. A friend you had.

8 Did you also pay for her phone?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Besides her going to see you did she also  
11 get drugs for you?

12 A. No.

13 Q. No.

14 You have said here that you had someone  
15 outside of jail who got drugs for you, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Someone that you did trust, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Did you pay for that, sir?

20 A. Yes, I paid for that.

21 Q. You gave -- whoever it was you gave money  
22 for them to get drugs for you to get into jail?

23 A. Yes, I had persons who would do the  
24 movement.

25 Q. You had more than one person?

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. Yes, you always have more than one person.

2 Q. Okay. And how many did you have?

3 A. I had three women.

4 Q. All of them females?

5 A. I had three females and the person who had  
6 the drugs out on the street was a guy who was in drug  
7 trafficking. And sometimes purchases would be done  
8 with Bambani who was the one I had the relationship  
9 with or Cigueña.

10 Q. So besides what you did in jail you also  
11 outside had people who worked for you, got you drugs  
12 and brought you drugs and you paid them for that?

13 A. Yes, when you have the position of leader  
14 you have to have a work plan such as required by the  
15 maximum leadership.

16 Q. Okay. And of that money you made, did you  
17 save money for yourself when you get out of jail?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. Do you still have that money?

20 A. Right now I don't even have a little bit of  
21 that money.

22 Q. It has been spent?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You have spent it, correct?

25 A. Yes, that's right, yes.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Q. You gave to your family.

2 A. Yes, on occasions, yes.

3 Q. To your mother?

4 A. One time, could be.

5 Q. To your sisters?

6 A. One or twice it could be.

7 Q. To your ex-wife?

8 A. No, not the ex-wife.

9 Q. Jessica you did not give her money?

10 A. Jessica Delgado she's the mother of my  
11 daughter and I'm separated from her from many years  
12 ago.

13 Q. Now, sir, you have told us here that no one  
14 has told you what time you will do in jail for this  
15 case, correct?

16 A. I signed a plea.

17 Q. Okay. You signed a plea and you signed a  
18 plea with guidelines, correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Do you know what those are, the guidelines  
21 what they are?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. And you were asked here that you were  
24 going to ask for a sentence with a guideline of 28,  
25 correct?



Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. Well, I can't ask for guidelines. The  
2 guidelines fall within your criminal history.

3 Q. You were asked if you were going to ask for  
4 a sentence within a guideline, specific guideline,  
5 28?

6 A. That's how I ended up with 28 points. I  
7 mean I didn't ask for it.

8 Q. When you go back to court, whenever it is,  
9 to be sentenced, do you have to ask for a sentence  
10 within that guideline?

11 A. No.

12 Q. No?

13 Let me show you, sir, your plea and I am  
14 going to ask you to read page 5, paragraph 9.

15 THE COURT: If you would please refer to it  
16 by exhibit number so the record's clean.

17 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Thank you, Your  
18 Honor. This is 4, Exhibit No. 4 for the government.

19 THE COURT: Thank you.

20 Q. Could you please read on that page where it  
21 says, Sentence Recommendation.

22 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Could you translate  
23 it to him, please.

24 THE INTERPRETER: Yes.

25 A. Yes. Determined by the Court.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Q. Okay, determined by the Court.

2 And you are bound to ask for a sentence  
3 within Guideline 28, correct?

4 A. I'm not obligated.

5 Q. Let me read to you. The parties reserve the  
6 right to recommend a sentence within the applicable  
7 guideline sentencing range for a total offense level  
8 of 28.

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. What does that mean to you, sir?

11 A. Well, that was the points for my criminal  
12 history, for my criminal trajectory, that's the  
13 level.

14 Q. So you have to have two things: Offense  
15 level 28 and your points from your past history,  
16 criminal history, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. But it's always within Guideline  
19 Level 28, correct?

20 A. Level 28.

21 Q. Okay. And in your plea agreement which you  
22 signed, Exhibit 4 for the government, there is -- at  
23 page 4 there is a range that is given to you  
24 according to your points, like you say, criminal  
25 history points, correct?

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So, sir, we see -- and I am pointing here,  
3 this is the range, total offense level 28, and then  
4 it goes to the side and it has different numbers,  
5 correct, sir?

6 A. Mm-hmm, different numbers.

7 Q. And you tell us those are your points  
8 according to your past history, criminal history,  
9 correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. So, if you are a I, you would request a  
12 sentence between 78 months and 97 months, correct?

13 A. Not that.

14 Q. And you are what? Do you know what is your  
15 history, criminal history points? Do you fall within  
16 a II, III, IV, V or VI?

17 A. A III.

18 Q. You are a III. So, let's see, we go to  
19 total offense level 28, Criminal History  
20 Category III, and what numbers do we have here, sir?

21 A. 97 to 121.

22 Q. Okay. So when you go back to court to be  
23 sentenced you have to ask for a sentence between  
24 97 months to 121 months, correct?

25 A. No, because at the end of it all it's the

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 judge that imposes the sentence. I can't decide. At  
2 the end it's the judge who imposes the sentence.

3 Q. Correct, sir. However, however, you signed  
4 Exhibit 4 with the government, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. This is a plea agreement, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And why did you sign this?

9 A. Because it's my cooperation plea.

10 Q. Okay. And this plea agreement was not  
11 signed by a judge, correct?

12 A. No.

13 Q. This is only between you and the government,  
14 correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So you both know what you can ask the Court  
17 for a sentence in your case, right?

18 A. Yes, well, in the -- in the process, yes.  
19 When the process finishes.

20 Q. Now, you have told us that the Court is not  
21 bound by this document, correct?

22 A. He's not bound by the agreement.

23 Q. Okay. And precisely at page 3, paragraph 6  
24 it says that your sentence is within the sound  
25 discretion of the sentencing judge.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. At his discretion.

2 Q. But that judge has to take into account the  
3 sentencing guidelines, correct?

4 A. Well, he's the one that imposes the final  
5 sentence. Well, he might have recommendations but I  
6 don't know if he's going to sentence me following the  
7 recommendations.

8 Q. Correct, sir.

9 However, what I asked of you was that the  
10 judge has to take into account the sentencing  
11 guidelines, correct?

12 A. Well, yes.

13 Q. Okay. Which is those numbers that we saw  
14 before.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. And that judge can give you a higher  
17 sentence or a lower sentence, correct?

18 A. Higher or lower.

19 Q. Okay. And because he can do that, that is  
20 why you signed a plea agreement supplement, correct?

21 A. No, I signed the plea but it doesn't have to  
22 be because of that.

23 Q. The question, sir, is, you also signed a  
24 plea agreement supplement.

25 A. Yes.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Q. Okay, which is Government's Exhibit 5,  
2 correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And, again, this is between you and the  
5 government, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. And why did you sign a plea agreement  
8 supplement? What is that for?

9 A. To seek an improvement.

10 Q. Improvement in the sentence to be imposed,  
11 correct?

12 A. That's going to be imposed.

13 Q. Okay. Because it's for substantial  
14 assistance, correct?

15 A. There's help, yes.

16 Q. And that is your help to the government,  
17 correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. And to the questions of counsel,  
20 government counsel, you said that you did not have to  
21 make a case, you only had to tell the truth, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Now, let's look at Government's  
24 Exhibit 5, page 4. The government reserves the right  
25 to carry out its, what, responsibilities, correct?

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And at paragraph 7 it says that they reserve  
3 the option to seek a downward departure.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. They reserve the option. So they decide  
6 whether they do it or not, correct?

7 A. Who's "they"?

8 Q. The government?

9 A. They recommend but they don't decide.

10 Q. They don't decide the final sentence, they  
11 make a recommendation. But they have an option,  
12 correct?

13 A. Yes, they have an option.

14 Q. Do you know what that is?

15 A. To reduce the sentence, an improvement.

16 Q. Or they can do nothing, they can say I am  
17 not going to seek a downward departure, correct?

18 A. They can also do that.

19 Q. So they are not bound to seek a downward  
20 departure in your sentence.

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay. Now you have told us here several  
23 times, many times, that the sentence to be imposed is  
24 decided by the judge, correct?

25 A. The final one, yes.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 Q. And we saw the guidelines in your case --  
2 applicable to your case, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Now, when you signed the plea even though  
5 you were a member of the Ñeta, like you say a leader,  
6 chapter leader selling drugs for many years, what you  
7 pled to was the base offense level of being  
8 responsible for only 400 grams but less than  
9 700 grams of heroin, correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Okay. Now, in those years that you were  
12 selling drugs you sold much more than that amount,  
13 correct?

14 A. Well, yes.

15 Q. Yes.

16 So, when you sat with the government to sign  
17 this plea you got a benefit from signing to a lower  
18 amount of drugs, correct?

19 A. Yes, when you plead guilty.

20 Q. Right.

21 So you pled to a very low amount of drugs,  
22 correct?

23 A. Yes. Yes.

24 Q. If you had pled to all the drugs that you  
25 dealt with you would have pled to a very high level,



Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 correct, guideline level?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. And that would have meant many more  
4 years in jail, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So when you signed this you did start with a  
7 very low expectation of a sentence, correct? A  
8 benefit, sir, of signing to a lesser amount of drugs.

9 A. Yes. When I pled guilty automatically, yes,  
10 yes.

11 Q. Now, you told us that you were a history  
12 three, Criminal History III, and we saw the numbers  
13 that go with that guideline which were 97 to  
14 121 months, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. But you don't want to be in jail for  
17 97 months, correct?

18 A. Well, that's correct.

19 Q. That is almost ten years, correct?

20 A. Almost ten years.

21 Q. And that is a time you don't want to serve  
22 correct, you personally?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And because of that, that is why you signed  
25 the cooperation agreement.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. You have told us that the sentence to  
3 be imposed is only by the judge; and no one has told  
4 you how you will be sentenced.

5 A. Exactly.

6 Q. So as of today you don't know what your  
7 sentence will be.

8 A. No, because I have one here and in state  
9 court. I wouldn't know...

10 Q. Let me ask you, what is it that you have in  
11 state court?

12 A. I have 102 years total sentence.

13 Q. That was from your first case, the murder  
14 case, correct?

15 A. The first case, yes.

16 Q. Okay. And then you have this case.

17 A. I now have the federal case.

18 Q. So you might be sentenced in this case and  
19 then serve this case and have to go back to state  
20 jail to serve the other sentence, correct?

21 A. Yes, but if I have to do it, I have to do  
22 it.

23 Q. Okay. Do you hope that someone, the  
24 government here, will do something to help you with  
25 that state sentence you have pending?

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 A. I would hope so.

2 Q. And what is it that you hope that they could  
3 do?

4 A. I would hope that they help me in my state  
5 sentence or in the parole board.

6 Q. Parole board. Have you been there to the  
7 parole board?

8 A. I've never gone.

9 Q. So you are hoping that the government, the  
10 Federal Government, will help you with either one of  
11 those or both, correct?

12 A. Or that it be one.

13 Q. With just one you would be happy?

14 A. I would at the very least have a date that I  
15 would come out.

16 Q. Sir, in your mind, like you have said, do  
17 you have a sense of in what time, what year you will  
18 come out of jail if everything goes according to what  
19 you think will happen?

20 A. No, I have no idea.

21 Q. So it could be in five years, ten years,  
22 15 years, two months, three months, six months,  
23 correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Okay. Sir, you told us that you are now at

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 MDC, correct, the federal prison?

2 A. MDC Guaynabo.

3 Q. Okay. And you are placed in 4-Charlie,  
4 correct, 4-C, the unit 4-C?

5 A. Yes, in 4-Charlie.

6 Q. And can you tell the jury what 4-Charlie is?

7 A. 4-Charlie is a section where there's only  
8 witnesses that are state or federal witnesses.

9 Q. So the ones that you see, meet with, live  
10 with, are the ones who are just like you,  
11 cooperators?

12 A. There are cooperators.

13 Q. Now, sir, while in 4-Charlie -- let me ask  
14 you first how long have you been in 4-Charlie, since  
15 when?

16 A. It's been 31 months. Since 2015,  
17 October 15th, around that is that I started there.

18 Q. Now, sir, while you are in 4-Charlie you can  
19 see family members who come to visit you, correct?

20 A. Yes. If they're written down, yes.

21 Q. And you can also make phone calls, correct?

22 A. You can make calls.

23 Q. And those are made by you, correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And you know that they are recorded,

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 correct?

2 A. They're recorded.

3 Q. Okay. And you told your mother, correct --  
4 you call your mother, correct?

5 A. From time to time I call her.

6 Q. Because, as you said here, you love her,  
7 correct?

8 A. Yes, I love her.

9 Q. She's family?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And you also talk to your sisters,  
12 correct? You talk to Beba?

13 A. One time I -- several times I spoke to Beba.

14 Q. And, sir, when you made those phone calls  
15 and you came into 4-Charlie you were advised phone  
16 calls are recorded, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And in fact you signed a document in which  
19 it says, I know phone calls are recorded, correct, I  
20 have knowledge they are?

21 A. Yes. You don't sign it or anything but  
22 there's a document on it.

23 Q. Now, sir, have you, in the phone calls that  
24 you have made to your family, to your mother  
25 specifically, have you told her that you will be out

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 of jail by 2020, the year 2020?

2 A. 2020?

3 Q. 2020.

4 A. No, I said that I hope to come out at some  
5 point but not an exact date.

6 Q. You have not given your mother a date or a  
7 year, sir, not a date, a year in which you hope to be  
8 out?

9 A. What I told my mother is that my parole  
10 board is for 2019.

11 Q. Okay. As to this case, federal case, have  
12 you told your mother if you serve a lot of time you  
13 will be out by the year 2020, that is in two years,  
14 correct?

15 A. No, I haven't told her that.

16 Q. Now, have you told your mother that the only  
17 reason you were still in jail as of today, last  
18 month, last week, two months ago, is because  
19 defendants want to go to trial and that has made you  
20 stay in jail?

21 A. I haven't told her there's a trial.

22 Q. Okay. So you have never told her, The only  
23 reason that I am still in jail is because defendants  
24 want to go to trial and that's why I'm stuck in jail?

25 A. No. What -- I really haven't told her very

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 clearly about things because her health isn't that  
2 good. So what I told her is that, you know, to stay  
3 calm that I'm here, that there's a federal problem.  
4 That's more or less what I told her. I also told her  
5 that I'm cooperating but I really haven't told her  
6 the details of it.

7 Q. You have not told your --

8 A. And I haven't told her a date either.

9 Q. You have not told your mother that once this  
10 trial is over everyone else is going to sign because  
11 they will be scared?

12 A. No.

13 Q. No, you haven't said that.

14 Okay. Now, sir, in the phone calls that you  
15 have made to your mother you have asked your family  
16 to send money to Cynthia, her son, correct?

17 A. No.

18 Q. You haven't said that?

19 You haven't told your family to send money  
20 to the son she has who is gay, José Ortiz-González,  
21 also known as Naika?

22 A. What happens is that Cynthia is my friend  
23 and she at a certain point deposited some money to  
24 me. She always wanted to help me.

25 Q. But the question is, sir, if in the phone

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 calls that you made from MDC to your family you have  
2 asked your family to deposit money or give money to  
3 Cynthia's son. Naika, correct?

4 A. It was once.

5 Q. So you did say that?

6 A. Once.

7 Q. And while in jail you talked to Cynthia,  
8 correct?

9 A. Yes, I would talk to Cynthia while I was in  
10 jail.

11 Q. But that was not that you called her,  
12 correct, by a telephone, correct?

13 A. No, not Cynthia.

14 Q. The way that you spoke to her was through  
15 using the toilets, correct?

16 A. Yes, the toilets was an intercom that was  
17 there before and that was being used.

18 Q. And after you talked to Cynthia you spoke to  
19 one of the agents and told the agent, Cynthia wants  
20 to be taken out, Cynthia has information?

21 A. Yes. That, yes.

22 Q. And that Cynthia wanted, and excuse me, to  
23 screw *Papito* because she was angry with him.

24 A. Yes. Cynthia was *Papito*'s girlfriend and  
25 she was a person that would do the things of drug



Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1       trafficking for *Papito*. She was a speaker.

2       Q.           But in those phone calls that you made and  
3       you spoke to one of the agents you told the agent  
4       that Cynthia wanted to screw *Papito* because she was  
5       angry, that is what you said.

6       A.           Yes.

7       Q.           Okay.

8               THE COURT: Ms. Lizarribar, we're going to  
9       take a second break right now for ten minutes.

10              MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Okay.

11              THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, we're just  
12       going to take another short break just so you guys  
13       can stretch out. We'll see you back here in ten  
14       minutes.

15              I want to see counsel at the side, please.

16              (The Jury exits the room.)

17              (Sidebar discussions begin.)

18              THE COURT: So I got this communication from  
19       Juror 14. "By the way, I would like to request an  
20       opportunity to visit my primary doctor to check my  
21       left ear. I was with my kids at a community pool and  
22       had this ear infection since yesterday that is  
23       causing me pain. My primary doctor can be reached  
24       during the morning. I've taken a pain reliever this  
25       morning that has reduced a little of the pain, but my

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 left ear is partially clogged but I can endure for  
2 today's trial."

3 So I'm going to have him come in and right  
4 here ask him what this -- have him make the call and  
5 see what the situation is, okay?

6 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Yes, okay.

7 THE COURT: Bring him.

8 (Juror No. 14 joins the sidebar.)

9 [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED]  
22 [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED]

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]

(Juror No. 14 leaves sidebar.)

MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: If I may, Judge, I just want to advise the Court that I have the phone calls that I have said in my cross and I will put them on. I'm going to give counsel a copy of the phone calls right here.

MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Sure.

MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: These are MDC recordings. I got them with a court order. And I had hundreds of them so I just --

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: I'm just getting  
2 discovery now, I guess.

3 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Well, his  
4 testimony --

5 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Talk to the judge.

6 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: His testimony was  
7 last week. Today, now, is that I know what I have  
8 that I can use for cross. I didn't know before. As  
9 I said, I have hundreds of phone calls for him and  
10 when he testifies here is that I can see what he is  
11 saying now that is different from what he has told  
12 other people. Those are his statements to his  
13 family, to his mother, recorded, officially given to  
14 me by a court order.

15 THE COURT: So how many of these calls are  
16 there?

17 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Well, I have --

18 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: *Se llama* collateral  
19 impeachment. *Se llama* collateral impeachment.

20 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: I have hundreds of  
21 them but I'm going to use four, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Maybe five.

24 THE COURT: So, can you share those four  
25 with your brother right now --

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Yes.

2 THE COURT: And then take a look at them and  
3 let me know.

4 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Sure, but in the  
5 meanwhile, Your Honor, just for the record, we filed  
6 a motion for reciprocal discovery, we got none.  
7 We're just getting bombarded now with discovery. And  
8 a second matter is, this is collateral impeachment;  
9 she's trying to extrinsically impeach my -- the  
10 witness with a collateral matter that under First  
11 Circuit law is inadmissible and inappropriate because  
12 nothing that she has asked is non collateral. So,  
13 none of the questions she's posed is non collateral.  
14 So, if this is allowed she would be allowed to bring  
15 extrinsic evidence to impeach my witness on  
16 collateral matters, Your Honor.

17 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: If I may answer  
18 that, one, he has told his mother many times, I will  
19 be out by 2020 at the most. I should be out by now,  
20 I am free. I am only in jail because there is a  
21 trial but once this trial is over I'll be on the  
22 streets. That is not what he has said here to the  
23 members of this jury. That's one of them. Okay?

24 Second, he has told his mother that he has  
25 been erased his state case, that he has no longer

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 anything to serve in the state and he no longer has  
2 to go to the board, the parole board, which is  
3 contrary, Your Honor, to what he has said here under  
4 oath. And I think that as to what he thinks he is  
5 going to get and what he has said here impeachment is  
6 right here. Those are his own statements.

7 THE COURT: Thank you. So explain to me  
8 what you mean by extrinsic?

9 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Well, this is --  
10 intrinsic would be with the own testimony of the  
11 witness. So when she asked the questions, intrinsic  
12 would be from her and between the witness. If she  
13 brings other evidence outside of the declarant, that  
14 automatically becomes extrinsic evidence; so, this  
15 caused extrinsic evidence of impeachment. It's other  
16 evidence, nothing happening here in testimony in  
17 court. And she is supposed to live with the answer  
18 that he gives to those questions.

19 So by allowing these calls this is extrinsic  
20 evidence of impeachment of a collateral matter. And  
21 she -- you know, I don't think it's fair that we  
22 give -- first, that she's going to be allowed to do  
23 collateral impeachment and, second, that we give  
24 discovery over a year in advance and then  
25 literally --

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 THE COURT: So why didn't you give him  
2 copies of this stuff?

3 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Because I didn't  
4 know, Judge, if they could even be used.

5 THE COURT: So what? It's still reciprocal.

6 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Okay, if he had said  
7 to me, Yes, I have told her 2020, I'm done, there's  
8 nothing else I can do. If he had said to me, I did  
9 tell her I don't have a case anymore in Ponce, I'm  
10 done, there's nothing else I can do. But he has said  
11 to this jury --

12 THE COURT: No, no, I understand why you  
13 want to use it. I get that. But why didn't you give  
14 him the calls?

15 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: This is  
16 cross-examination, Judge.

17 THE COURT: I understand, but why didn't you  
18 give him the calls?

19 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Because there are  
20 hundreds, they would have said which ones are you  
21 going to use.

22 THE COURT: So what?

23 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: I didn't -- you  
24 know, I knew Friday that I could use three phone  
25 calls. Friday night I sat with my phone calls and

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 heard phone calls again to see what he had said under  
2 oath before this Court to be able to go back and see  
3 is there anything different in what he has told  
4 others. And that is when I found out, Friday night.  
5 It wasn't before Friday. It could have been that I  
6 just couldn't have used any of them, so that was it.

7 THE COURT: I'm not sure that excuses the  
8 responsibility to not provide him with the calls from  
9 the get-go and then it's up to him if he wants to dig  
10 through them or not. Right?

11 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: When we did the  
12 T-III we provided everything. We're not using all  
13 the hundred-plus calls that we intercepted during the  
14 investigation.

15 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: This is  
16 cross-examination, Judge. I understand that for  
17 cross --

18 THE COURT: Yeah, I understand, I  
19 understand, but you've had these.

20 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: -- I might have used  
21 them or might have not.

22 THE COURT: Yeah, but whether you use them  
23 or not doesn't excuse the responsibility to provide  
24 them. Right? I mean, you gave them to him and you  
25 didn't use them, okay; you gave them to him and you



Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 did use them, even better.

2 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: But this is not  
3 Rule 16 discovery, Judge. This is impeachment and  
4 this was during cross-examination.

5 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Also -- Your Honor,  
6 we also don't have a transcript, it's not certified,  
7 so now they're going to listen to calls in Spanish  
8 and --

9 THE COURT: Are they in Spanish or in  
10 English?

11 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: They are in Spanish,  
12 Judge.

13 THE COURT: So how are we going to do this?

14 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Well, I already  
15 asked that transcripts be made.

16 THE COURT: And do you have the transcripts?

17 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: No, Judge. I mean  
18 this happened Friday night. I worked all weekend, I  
19 couldn't get anyone to transcribe the smaller  
20 portions. It's just seconds.

21 THE COURT: Well, if you don't have the  
22 transcript -- I mean I'm not saying you can't go  
23 there.

24 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Okay.

25 THE COURT: In fact, if you want, you might

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 even be able to recall this witness. How much longer  
2 are you going to be on cross?

3 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: It's just the phone  
4 calls, Judge, that's it.

5 THE COURT: So you're at that point?

6 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: I'm at that point.  
7 If I can -- if I can call him back again, I will have  
8 them done.

9 THE COURT: Well --

10 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: I'll have them done,  
11 someone's doing them already.

12 THE COURT: When do you expect you'll get  
13 that?

14 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: I suppose that by  
15 tomorrow I will have them.

16 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Are they going to be  
17 certified?

18 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Yes, they are. I  
19 comply with the local rule.

20 THE COURT: This is your fault.

21 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: No, no, I know the  
22 rule Judge.

23 THE COURT: That makes one of us. So, let's  
24 do this, I'm not going to say no and I'm not going to  
25 say yes. Let's give your brother a chance to look at

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1     what you've designated --

2             MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI:    Sure.

3             THE COURT:   -- and then we'll go through  
4     this.  If you said you have a case on extrinsic  
5     versus --

6             MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:   I'll bring it, Your  
7     Honor.

8             MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI:   I'll bring you case  
9     law.

10            MS. HILL-ADAMES:   Your Honor, 608(b) does  
11     not bar extrinsic evidence on every occasion.  He is  
12     misleading the Court by telling the Court --

13            MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:   No.

14            MS. HILL-ADAMES:   Yes, you are.  When you  
15     say that extrinsic evidence is always excluded,  
16     that's not right.

17            MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:   What I said to the  
18     Court is that she forgot to mention that I mentioned  
19     the word collateral and non collateral.  You have to  
20     read 608(b) with collateral.

21            MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI:   I also have case law  
22     and I will bring it to the Court.  We have used it,  
23     Your Honor.  I have used it with him in other cases.

24            MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:   And I learned to  
25     object by being hit by it before.

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 THE COURT: All right, I'll see you guys. I  
2 don't know what we're going to do about that juror so  
3 let's play it by ear.

4 MS. HILL-ADAMES: He has an earache and it  
5 being so cold he must be in a lot of pain.

6 THE COURT: Yeah, no kidding.

7 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Will you tell the  
8 jury that at this time will I will stop but I have an  
9 opportunity bring him back?

10 THE COURT: Let me think about that. I've  
11 got to figure out something.

12 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Okay.

13 (The Court exits the room.)

14 (Jury recessed at 12:02 p.m. and resumed at  
15 12:06 p.m.)

16 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: All rise.

17 (The Court enters the room.)

18 THE COURT: Ms. Lizarribar, except for that  
19 issue you are done with this witness?

20 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Yes, Your Honor.

21 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, I have  
22 case law.

23 THE COURT: Break at our usual time 12:30.  
24 I have an emergency hearing I picked up from up top  
25 that I'm going to take at quarter of 1:00 to 1:30, so

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Cross

1 hopefully we'll start right at 1:30.

2 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Okay. Judge, shall  
3 I then stop now and then --

4 THE COURT: I'll ask you if you have any  
5 further questions and then -- actually I think what  
6 I'll do is just tell the jury that for now you're  
7 suspending your cross and that this witness may or  
8 may not be called back.

9 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Thank you, Judge.

10 THE COURT: Do you have redirect?

11 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: It's going to be  
12 short, Your Honor.

13 (The Jury enters the room.)

14 THE COURT: So ladies and gentlemen,  
15 Ms. Lizarribar is going to suspend her examination of  
16 this witness for the time being. We may or may not  
17 allow her to recall him for cross. There's an issue  
18 that we need to work out and depending on how that  
19 works out we may have him back. But for right now  
20 Mr. Acevedo is going to redirect the witness.

21 Thank you, Ms. Lizarribar.

22 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Thank you, Judge.

23 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

24 ---

25 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Redirect

1 Q. Sir, you were asked by the defense whether  
2 murder for hire was allowed under the rules of the  
3 organization; do you remember that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Was there murder for hire in the Asociación  
6 Ñeta?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What year?

9 A. 2014.

10 Q. Was the -- what murders in 2014 happened  
11 that were for hire in La organización Ñeta?

12 A. Mario M., August 27, 2014.

13 Q. What other murder, if any, was for hire in  
14 La Asociación Ñeta in that year?

15 A. Alexis "*El Loco*" on November 6th.

16 Q. Sir, you were also asked questions by  
17 counsel as to drugs given as donations; do you  
18 remember that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How are drugs that are given as donations  
21 entered into prison?

22 A. Through pathways.

23 Q. Are they the same -- do you know if they are  
24 the same pathways that are used to introduce the  
25 drugs that are sold by the organization?

## Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Redirect

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Are they the same?

3 A. They are the same.

4 Q. Sir, counsel for Miguel Rivera-Calcaño asked  
5 you a question about when you talked to Miguel  
6 Rivera-Calcaño, he cut you off; what were you trying  
7 to explain?

8 MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO: Objection, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Sustained. I'll let you go  
10 there just go without the characterization.

11 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Yes, Your Honor.

12 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

13 Q. When you were asked questions as to when you  
14 spoke to Miguel Rivera-Calcaño, can you explain who  
15 told you you were going to speak with him.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you explain.

18 A. Cigueña and Sandwich. What happens is that  
19 when a person is appointed to a position  
20 automatically you're told that one of the two or the  
21 two are going call you, usually someone that's  
22 closest, and they tell you that they're going to  
23 collect the status on the 25th. And they tell you,  
24 If I don't call you then somebody else will call you  
25 because it's -- well, it's a lot of prisons.

## Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Redirect

1 Q. And why do you say that Cigueña and Fernan  
2 Sandwich both called you?

3 A. Well, to tell me that from now on that he  
4 was going to be in charge and he was going to call me  
5 asking me for the information on the status because  
6 not everybody can call you to do that. See, there's  
7 Cigueña or somebody who has already been classified  
8 to do that.

9 Q. Did they call you at the same time or did  
10 they call you separately?

11 A. No, he calls me him alone.

12 Q. Who?

13 A. Cigueña calls me by himself or Sandwich  
14 tells me that in person, because we lived in the same  
15 module. Or Kikirimiau calls me.

16 Q. Sir, you were also asked questions as to  
17 Government's Exhibit 5; do you remember that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Sir, I ask you, under the terms of your  
20 cooperation supplement what is your only obligation?

21 A. To tell the truth.

22 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: I have no further  
23 questions, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Thank you. Ms. Hill, any  
25 followup?



Alex Miguel Cruz-Santos - Redirect

1 MS. HILL-ADAMES: No, Your Honor.

2 MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO: None, Your Honor.

3 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: I have none further.

4 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Maybe Your Honor you  
5 can --

6 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Cruz-Santos. You  
7 may step down.

8 United States.

9 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Yes, Your Honor.  
10 The United States calls Alejandro Estrada-Deida.

11 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Please raise your  
12 right hand.

13 Do you solemnly swear that the testimony  
14 you're about to give in the case now before the Court  
15 will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but  
16 the truth, so help you God?

17 THE WITNESS: I do.

18 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Thank you, sir, you  
19 may be seated.

20 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Your Honor, may we  
21 go sidebar.

22 (Sidebar discussions begin.)

23 MS. HILL-ADAMES: We would like to know if  
24 this witness is going to talk about drug seizures.

25 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: No, he's going to

1 talk about a cell phone that was seized in the prison  
2 where Carlos Baez-Figueroa, who is the person  
3 depicted in Exhibit 19, was; and that cell phone was  
4 subsequently searched by the FBI who was going to be  
5 the next witness. And inside that phone the photo of  
6 Carlos Baez-Figueroa was found and a drug ledger  
7 detailing the finances of the organization was found.

8 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Okay, but we would like to  
9 know how they're linking this exhibit to the actual  
10 Ñeta and the allegations in the indictment.

11 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Because the cell  
12 phone was seized in the prison.

13 If I may be heard, first of all, sorry.

14 THE COURT: Of course.

15 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Sorry, I forget  
16 sometimes. The cell phone was seized, Your Honor, in  
17 a cell where Carlos Baez-Figueroa, which is the photo  
18 we've already shown to the witness and she said that  
19 was the main leader for the organization, was seized  
20 in that cell. The cell phone the search of that cell  
21 phone revealed a photo of him and a drug ledger of  
22 the organization which would be shown to other  
23 cooperating witnesses and will be explained. And, by  
24 the way, the drug ledger has the a/k/a of her client  
25 and her client.

1 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Did you say that the  
2 ledger was seized from inside the cell of a Ñeta  
3 member?

4 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Yes. The phone that  
5 has the same --

6 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Yes?

7 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Well, the phone was  
8 seized in a prison cell where Carlos Baez-Figueroa  
9 was housed. Inside the phone when they searched it  
10 they found a photo of Carlos Baez-Figueroa and a drug  
11 ledger that has your client's a/k/a and your client's  
12 a/k/a. I provided this in discovery.

13 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Your Honor, we have an  
14 objection to the admissibility of the ledger because  
15 the ledger is not seized. There's no evidence that  
16 the ledger was seized from a cell where there's a  
17 Ñeta member. There's lots of inmates that --

18 THE COURT: Let's do this, when we get to  
19 that point let's see what the foundation is and then  
20 I will hear you further. Okay?

21 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Okay, yes, Your Honor.

22 (Sidebar discussions end.)

23 ---

24 OFFICER ALEJANDRO ESTRADA-DEIDA, a witness  
25 called on behalf of the Government, having been duly

1 sworn by the Courtroom Deputy, was examined and  
2 testified as follows:

3 DIRECT EXAMINATION

4 ---

5 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

6 Q. Sir, good morning. Can you please state  
7 your name to the members of this jury.

8 A. Alejandro Estrada-Deida.

9 Q. Mr. Estrada, for whom do you currently work?

10 A. For the Department of Corrections.

11 Q. And what are your duties with the Department  
12 of Corrections?

13 A. Sergeant of the canine unit.

14 Q. Sir, when you say the "Department of  
15 Corrections," is that the Puerto Rico Department of  
16 Corrections?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And in the year 2012 what were your duties  
19 in the Department of Corrections?

20 A. Sergeant of the canine unit of Arecibo.

21 Q. And what is it that you do as part of the  
22 canine unit?

23 A. Supervise searches, verify all procedures in  
24 the institutions to avoid contraband.

25 Q. Sir, I want to take your attention to

Officer Alejandro Estrada-Deida - Direct

1 January 22 of the year 2012; sir, what happened on  
2 that date?

3 A. We went to a search in the Guaynabo  
4 institution and Officer Esteban Centeno, handler of  
5 Canine Rex, he moves the dog through an area of that  
6 building and the dog marks a contamination of a  
7 cellular phone. He tells me and I proceed to check  
8 behind a TV finding a cellular phone HTC brand Sprint  
9 and it was white.

10 I asked the officer of the institution to  
11 give me the card of the inmate count and there I  
12 verify what inmate sleeps on that bed; and the inmate  
13 who slept on that bed was Mr. Carlos Baez.

14 Q. Sir, I'm going to show you what has been  
15 previously marked as Government's Exhibit 19; do you  
16 know who is that that I'm showing you?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Showing you Government's ID 22 now, sir; do  
19 you recognize that, sir?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. What is that?

22 A. The HTC cellular phone that I seized that  
23 day.

24 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, we move  
25 Government's ID 22 into evidence.

Officer Alejandro Estrada-Deida - Direct

1 THE COURT: Any objections?

2 MS. HILL-ADAMES: We have an objection, Your  
3 Honor, for the reasons stated. We don't see the  
4 relevancy and how it connects to this case.

5 THE COURT: Let's do this, I'm going to mark  
6 it for ID. I'm going to holdup on its admissibility  
7 until we establish a nexus. I'm not excluding it,  
8 but I need you to foundate [ph].

9 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, may I  
10 show Government's Exhibit 19 to the witness so he can  
11 see it up-close.

12 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Objection, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: You may.

14 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Objection.

15 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Objection for the  
16 record.

17 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

18 Q. Showing you Government's Exhibit 19, sir;  
19 are you able to recognize that, sir?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Can you tell the members of the jury what  
22 Government's Exhibit 19 depicts.

23 A. Yes. This is the picture of Mr. Carlos  
24 Baez.

25 Q. And how do you know that's Carlos Baez?

Officer Alejandro Estrada-Deida - Direct

1 A. Because of the count card which states that  
2 it has a picture that that's him.

3 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Your Honor, we have  
4 an objection. May we approach.

5 THE COURT: Yes, come up. Actually let's do  
6 this, we're close enough to the lunch hour. We're  
7 going to break, we'll see you back here at 1:30  
8 thank. You.

9 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

10 (The Jury exits the room.)

11 THE COURT: You can step down, sir. Thank  
12 you.

13 (Sidebar discussions begin.)

14 THE COURT: So, I thought there was  
15 something identifying on this. What was the  
16 objection?

17 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: My objection is, Your  
18 Honor that, the witness stated when he was shown the  
19 photo on the ELMO that he could not recognize it.  
20 When the government brings the ID up to him, shows  
21 him up-close, he says that that's the photo of the --  
22 that's in the ledger of the jail that states who  
23 sleeps in there. And this picture was actually taken  
24 from inside the cell phone; that is not the official  
25 photo that he may have used to identify the alleged

Officer Alejandro Estrada-Deida - Direct

1 person who --

2 THE COURT: Wouldn't that go more to its  
3 weight than its admissibility and you get to cross  
4 him on all that?

5 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: But still, Your  
6 Honor, he said he didn't recognize.

7 MS. HILL-ADAMES: He said he didn't  
8 recognize that.

9 THE COURT: That I got.

10 MS. HILL-ADAMES: He couldn't identify it  
11 until you approached him with the photo.

12 THE COURT: There was nothing leading about  
13 it.

14 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: My objection about it  
15 is, Your Honor, that that's not the photo that the  
16 witness is using to identify the person who allegedly  
17 lived in that cell the day of the seizure.

18 MS. HILL-ADAMES: And, furthermore, he  
19 hasn't even said where, what module, what cell. All  
20 he said was an institution in Guaynabo. We don't  
21 even know what prison groups live there, if Ñetas  
22 live there, if 27s live there.

23 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, this is  
24 all matters for cross. We've laid a foundation that  
25 this is the cell where a person that has been



Officer Alejandro Estrada-Deida - Direct

1 identified by a cooperating witness, is a maximum  
2 leadership for the organization. It was seized from  
3 a TV in his cell block.

4 THE COURT: All right. So it's in. I'll  
5 let you cross on that obviously.

6 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Even if it's outside of  
7 the scope because he's not going to go in there.

8 THE COURT: Yeah, you can go in there.

9 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: If I may, Judge,  
10 because I'm CJA counsel I need a Court order to be  
11 able to pay for the transcripts, so I'm going to file  
12 asking for one.

13 THE COURT: Just get it to Omar and I'll  
14 sign it right away.

15 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: Okay, thank you.

16 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: When can we provide  
17 the Court the case.

18 THE COURT: Give it to Omar and he'll give  
19 that to me. I'll see you guys at 1:30. We'll break  
20 back at 1:30.

21 (Sidebar discussions end.)

22 (The Court exits the room.)

23 (Jury trial recessed for lunch at 12:28 p.m.  
24 and resumed at 1:33 p.m.)

25 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: All rise.

Officer Alejandro Estrada-Deida - Direct

(The Court and Jury enter the room.)

THE BAILIFF: You may be seated.

THE COURT: Mr. Acevedo, please.

MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: For the record, I'm publishing again Government's Exhibit 19.

BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

Q. Sir, Government's ID 22 you mentioned to us that you seized it from a television -- or it was seized behind a television set. Can you explain where is it that it was seized, the area.

A. Behind the television in the bed that was next to Carlos Baez.

Q. And, sir, what place, what location of the Puerto Rico Department of Corrections did this happen?

A. In Guaynabo.

Q. Specifically where?

A. In the Guaynabo jail.

Q. Which one?

A. What was previously called juvenile institutions.

Q. And in what area of that institution?

A. In the area where his bed is located, next to the bed you have the television, and behind the television that's where it was. The TV belongs to

Officer Alejandro Estrada-Deida - Direct

1 him.

2 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, I tender  
3 the witness.

4 THE COURT: Who wants to be first?

5 MS. HILL-ADAMES: No, Your Honor, I have no  
6 questions.

7 MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO: I have no questions of the  
8 witness, Your Honor.

9 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: None, Your Honor.

10 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: I have none, Your  
11 Honor.

12 THE COURT: Thank you, sir, you may step  
13 down.

14 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: The next witness,  
15 Your Honor, is Daniel Cabrero.

16 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Please raise your  
17 right hand.

18 Do you solemnly swear that the testimony  
19 you're about to give in the case now before the Court  
20 will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but  
21 the truth, so help you God?

22 THE WITNESS: I do.

23 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Thank you, sir, you  
24 may be seated.

25 ---

1 DANIEL CABRERO, a witness called on behalf  
2 of the Government, having been duly sworn by the  
3 Courtroom Deputy, was examined and testified as  
4 follows:

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION

6 ---

7 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

8 Q. Sir, good afternoon. Can you state your  
9 name to the members of the jury.

10 A. My name is Daniel Cabrero. Last name is  
11 spelled C-a-b-r-e-r-o.

12 Q. And Mr. Cabrero for whom do you currently  
13 work?

14 A. I currently work for the FBI.

15 Q. In what capacity?

16 A. Special agent for the FBI.

17 Q. Since when have you been an FBI agent?

18 A. I've been an FBI since 2009, approximately  
19 nine years.

20 Q. And in the year 2012 what were your duties  
21 as an FBI agent?

22 A. I was assigned to the San Juan field office  
23 division and I was working gangs, drug trafficking,  
24 money laundering, among other things.

25 Q. Sir, I want to show you what has been

Daniel Cabrero - Direct

1 previously marked as Government's ID 22; can you tell  
2 this jury if you recognize that, sir.

3 A. Yes, I do.

4 Q. What is that that I'm showing you?

5 A. It's a cell phone.

6 Q. And how do you recognize it?

7 A. It's a cell phone that was -- I did a  
8 download from this cell phone back in January 2012.

9 Q. How is it that you perform a download on  
10 that phone?

11 A. We have a system that the FBI uses to  
12 download information from cell phone it's called  
13 Cellebrite. You just plug in the cell phone into the  
14 machine and the machine downloads all the information  
15 from the cell phone.

16 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Your Honor, we have  
17 an objection. May we approach.

18 THE COURT: Sure.

19 (Sidebar discussions begin.)

20 THE COURT: Mr. González.

21 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Your Honor, I have an  
22 objection as to this witness testifying as to this  
23 cell phone because it has not been admitted into  
24 evidence and, second, no foundation --

25 THE COURT: The cell phone's in evidence.

Daniel Cabrero - Direct

1 Hasn't it been offered?

2 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: No, Your Honor.

3 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Yes, it was offered  
4 and the Court has conditionally admitted it. So I'll  
5 move --

6 THE COURT: Okay, that's right that's,  
7 right. So it's not in but, yeah, okay.

8 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: And my objection is  
9 that with the witness that could have identified that  
10 cell phone as being the one that was seized and  
11 provided to this guy -- to this agent, no evidence  
12 was presented as to why he knew that it was the same  
13 one. All he said was that he looked at it and said,  
14 This was the one I saw. Without any identification,  
15 no foundation. And now this witness is going to  
16 testify as to the contents of that cell phone without  
17 it being introduced -- without it having been  
18 admitted into evidence. That's my objection, Your  
19 Honor.

20 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, we've  
21 authenticated, we're about to move it into evidence  
22 and continue with our direct. I think those are all  
23 things he could have explored in cross and goes to  
24 the weight.

25 THE COURT: Your objection's noted, I'll let

Daniel Cabrero - Direct

1       you proceed.

2               MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:   Okay.

3               (Sidebar discussions end.)

4               MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:   Your Honor, the  
5       United States moves ID 22 into evidence.

6               THE COURT:   All right.   Subject to the  
7       objections stated at sidebar it is so admitted.

8       BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

9       Q.       Sir, you were explaining to us how it is  
10      that you perform a download on Government's  
11      Exhibit 22; can you please continue to explain that  
12      to the members of the jury.

13      A.       So, this is a program the FBI uses, it's  
14      called Cellebrite.   You just plug in the cell phone  
15      into the system and that system extracts all the  
16      information contained in the cell phone.

17      Q.       And, sir, when you performed this  
18      examination of Government's Exhibit 22 were, you able  
19      to download anything from that cell phone?

20      A.       Yes.

21      Q.       If you were able to see items that were  
22      downloaded from that phone would you be able to  
23      recognize them?

24      A.       Yes.

25      Q.       Sir, showing you Government's Exhibit 19.

Daniel Cabrero - Direct

1 Do you know if that was downloaded from that cell  
2 phone?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was it downloaded from that cell phone?

5 A. Yes, it was.

6 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: May I approach the  
7 witness, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: You may.

9 Q. Sir, showing you Government's ID 23; do you  
10 recognize that, sir?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Sir, was Government's ID 23 downloaded from  
13 the cell phone which is Government's Exhibit 22?

14 A. Yes, it was.

15 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, at this  
16 time we move Government's ID 23 into evidence.

17 THE COURT: Any objection other than those  
18 stated at sidebar?

19 MS. HILL-ADAMES: No, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: So admitted.

21 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: For the record Your,  
22 Honor, I'm including a certified translation with  
23 that document as it's in Spanish.

24 THE COURT: Thank you.

25 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:



Daniel Cabrero - Direct

1 Q. Sir, what does this state right here?

2 A. *Informe Del Fondo General.*

3 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Should we get a  
4 translation for that, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Yes, please.

6 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Can the Court --

7 INTERPRETER SMITH: Sorry, Your Honor, an  
8 official translation of the document?

9 THE COURT: Yes, please.

10 INTERPRETER LAÓ: General Fund Report.

11 Q. So the translation for -- and what does it  
12 say there?

13 THE COURT: Can you put the English, please.

14 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: I'll start from the  
15 beginning.

16 THE COURT: Thank you.

17 Q. So, what do we have here, sir?

18 A. General Fund Report.

19 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: And this is for the  
20 record, first page of Government's Exhibit 23  
21 translation.

22 Q. And what does it state here?

23 A. Investments and expenses.

24 Q. And here?

25 A. Donations.

Daniel Cabrero - Direct

- 1 Q. And what do we have right here?
- 2 A. Rolo.
- 3 Q. And right next to it?
- 4 A. 800.
- 5 Q. And below Rolo?
- 6 A. Ten.
- 7 Q. And next to it?
- 8 A. 200.
- 9 Q. And what do we have right on the bottom
- 10 here?
- 11 A. Total donations.
- 12 Q. And next to that?
- 13 A. 5,250.
- 14 Q. And what do we have at the bottom?
- 15 A. Net total 59,565.
- 16 Q. And what do we have on the second page of
- 17 Government's Exhibit 23? What do we have here?
- 18 A. October Finances Chapters.
- 19 Q. And what does it state here?
- 20 A. Zarzal.
- 21 Q. And now I'm in page 4 of the translation of
- 22 Government's Exhibit 23. What do we have at the
- 23 beginning of that page?
- 24 A. Greetings, Associate Brothers.
- 25 Q. At the second paragraph of that.

Daniel Cabrero - Direct

1 A. Ñeta.

2 Q. And what do we have here?

3 A. Carlos Guaynabo, president.

4 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: I have no further  
5 questions, Your Honor.

6 MS. HILL-ADAMES: None.

7 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: None, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Mr. González on behalf of  
9 Mr. Casado-Berrios.

10 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Yes, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Please.

12 CROSS EXAMINATION

13 ---

14 BY MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO:

15 Q. Agent, referring to Government's ID -- it  
16 should be --

17 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: It's been already  
18 marked as an evidence.

19 THE COURT: It is 23.

20 Q. Regarding Exhibit 23, in this first page  
21 there's no phone number put on this first page; is  
22 that correct?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. There's no date put on this page either,  
25 correct?

Daniel Cabrero - Cross

1 A. (No response.)

2 Q. You were the one who downloaded this, right?

3 A. Not on that page.

4 Q. Not on this one, right.

5 Now, this was a phone that was provided to  
6 you by another person; is that correct?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. You didn't seize it.

9 A. No.

10 Q. And you were just following orders.

11 A. Yes.

12 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: I have no further  
13 questions, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Anybody else on cross? Any  
15 redirect?

16 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: No, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Thank you, sir, you may step  
18 down.

19 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: So the next witness,  
20 the United States calls Miguel Álvarez-Medina.

21 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Please raise your  
22 right hand.

23 Do you solemnly swear that the testimony  
24 you're about to give in the case now before the Court  
25 will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but

1 the truth, so help you God?

2 THE WITNESS: I do.

3 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Thank you, sir,  
4 please be seated.

5 ---

6 MIGUEL ÁLVAREZ-MEDINA, a witness called on  
7 behalf of the Government, having been duly sworn by  
8 the Courtroom Deputy, was examined and testified as  
9 follows:

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 ---

12 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

13 Q. Sir, please state your name to the members  
14 of this jury?

15 A. Miguel Álvarez-Medina.

16 Q. Sir, do you have any nickname?

17 A. Witito.

18 Q. Any other nickname?

19 A. Pastor Miguel.

20 Q. And how old are you?

21 A. Thirty-eight.

22 Q. Where were you born?

23 A. Río Piedras.

24 Q. What is the extent of your education?

25 A. Senior year of high school.

Miguel Álvarez-Medina - Direct

1 Q. What did you do after leaving school?

2 A. I graduated in '97 from the Angel Pedro  
3 Millán School. And then I went to Carolina to study  
4 at the vocational school Carlos F. Daniel, and I  
5 studied as an electrician there. And then I went to  
6 work as an elevator technician in 1998 until 2008.

7 Q. And what happened in 2007 in relation to an  
8 individual known as Homisan?

9 A. In 2008?

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. On April 29, 2008, at about noon I went to  
12 pick up a person that I was raised with. I decided  
13 to study but he decided to go down the wrong path --

14 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Objection. I'm  
15 waiting for him to finish, I'm sorry.

16 THE COURT: That's okay. What's the  
17 objection?

18 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: I move to strike the  
19 characterization of the other individual that the  
20 witness is testifying about.

21 THE COURT: All right. I'm going to strike  
22 that portion of the answer only. You may continue.

23 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

24 Q. Sir, what happened on April 29, 2008?

25 A. On April 29, 2008, I went to pick up

Miguel Álvarez-Medina - Direct

1 Homisan. We went to see two attorneys; one attorney  
2 at the state level, one attorney at the federal  
3 level. When we were on the way to his housing to  
4 where he lives, he made a third threat because  
5 previously he had made two threats that if I had --

6 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Objection, Your  
7 Honor. This is -- I'm sorry, I have to wait for the  
8 answer. It's hearsay, Your Honor.

9 A. -- that if I left his side he was going to  
10 take my life, the life of my wife, and my 21-day born  
11 son.

12 THE COURT: Sustained. Sustained as to the  
13 hearsay.

14 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

15 Q. What did you do as a result of what he said?

16 A. I took his weapon, since he was a fugitive  
17 of justice, and I shot him in his face.

18 Q. What happened to him?

19 A. He died.

20 Q. And what happened with that, with that  
21 murder?

22 A. On May 2, 2008, three days later, I made  
23 peace with the Lord.

24 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Objection.  
25 Self-serving answer, Your Honor.

Miguel Álvarez-Medina - Direct

1 THE COURT: Sustained.

2 Q. What did you do --

3 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: And, Your Honor, if  
4 he can allow the translation to be completed  
5 before --

6 THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter did  
7 everything.

8 THE COURT: Correct. So I have sustained  
9 what I heard. Continue, please.

10 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

11 Q. Sir, was the murder of Homisan charged  
12 against you in state court?

13 A. Yes. I went directly to the CIC and I made  
14 statements and I accepted the responsibility so that  
15 the case would be solved.

16 Q. And, sir, what happened with that state  
17 court?

18 A. I pled guilty as soon as possible. I was  
19 given 27 years; 15 for the murder, ten for Article  
20 5.4 weapons law, and two years for Article 5.15 also  
21 for weapons.

22 Q. And on what date did you receive that  
23 sentence?

24 A. October 22, 2008.

25 Q. And right now where are you living?



Miguel Álvarez-Medina - Direct

1 A. MDC Guaynabo.

2 Q. Were you charged in the Ñeta case?

3 A. No.

4 Q. And why are you in MDC?

5 A. Material witness, and serving the state  
6 sentence for the 27 years.

7 Q. And why are you in MDC as a material  
8 witness?

9 A. Because of the case of the Ñeta group, of  
10 the Ñeta association.

11 Q. Sir, did you decide to cooperate with law  
12 enforcement?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Why are you cooperating?

15 A. First, because of justice, and then the day  
16 that I met Prosecutor Victor Acevedo, an ex-federal  
17 agent last name Cotto, asked me to ask for a  
18 recommendation for reduction of my sentence.

19 Q. And are you cooperating because you want a  
20 reduction in your state sentence?

21 A. Okay, I'm cooperating for a recommendation.

22 Q. Has anyone made any promise to you that  
23 federal authorities are in fact going to seek a lower  
24 sentence in your state case?

25 A. No one. No one.

Miguel Álvarez-Medina - Direct

1 Q. Who decides your state sentence?

2 A. The state judicial court.

3 Q. And what obligation, if any, do you have as  
4 a government witness?

5 A. Tell the truth.

6 Q. Have you had any other problems with the law  
7 in addition to the murder of Homisan?

8 A. Never in my life.

9 Q. Have you ever used drugs?

10 A. No. I've never smoked cigarettes or drank  
11 or any type of controlled substances.

12 Q. Sir, let's talk about the -- La Asociación  
13 Ñeta. Did you ever become a member of La Asociación  
14 Ñeta?

15 A. Yes. I lived seven years and three months  
16 in the Ñeta association.

17 Q. And since when are you a member for the  
18 organization?

19 A. From May 4, 2008 which was when I was  
20 incarcerated in 705. I was only 16 days in 705. I  
21 was released on bond under pretrial services and from  
22 October 22, 2008 until February 2, 2016 I belonged to  
23 the Ñeta association.

24 Q. And what did you do for the -- La Asociación  
25 Ñeta?

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1 A. I was a member of the organization and at a  
2 certain point I belonged to the dialog committee.

3 Q. What is the dialog committee?

4 A. The dialog committee is the pretty face of  
5 the organization to talk to the administration.

6 Q. And why do you say "the pretty face"?

7 A. Because in the past when the association  
8 first formed the dialog committee these were the  
9 leaders, and the corrections administration would  
10 identify who were the leaders. And a certain point  
11 on they put persons there that had a good image, that  
12 they spoke well and they had an image when they were  
13 talking and values so that they could give a good  
14 image of the organization.

15 Q. And do you know about the history of La  
16 Asociación Ñeta?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. How is it that you know?

19 A. First it was taught to me by Modesto  
20 Crisostomo a/k/a Modesto Sicardo, or Modo Sicardo.  
21 He told me about the association, how it was formed  
22 at the end of the seventies, beginning of the  
23 eighties. Since he lived at 308, he worked taking  
24 the trash to the landfill. There they would take the  
25 motors of the washing machines to take them to the

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1 institution, and then to tear off the metal of the  
2 frames of the beds of litters, bunk beds, to make  
3 knives and so they could use the knives in the fight,  
4 the fight that ensued at 308 and the fight that  
5 occurred between the group that later would be called  
6 Ñetas and the group that was the 27s.

7 Q. And, sir, this person that explained this to  
8 you, the person you identified, was he a member of  
9 the Ñeta organization?

10 A. He was a member of the Ñetas and he was one  
11 of the persons who fought and bled for the values and  
12 ideals of the organization and he was in the free  
13 community. And he was freed because of Act 27 since  
14 he had cancer --

15 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Objection, Your  
16 Honor. Objection as hearsay. And this is historical  
17 way before he was a --

18 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection to him  
19 arguing in front of the jury.

20 THE COURT: Overruled.

21 A. In 2010, he was revoked because he didn't  
22 sign in with his social worker with whom he had to  
23 report to, so I saw him when he was revoked in the  
24 Annex 299 in Building 6. But Buildings 6, 7 and 3  
25 belonged to the Ñetas.

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1 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

2 Q. And, sir, originally what was the Ñeta  
3 organization about?

4 A. Well, the Ñetas began with some ideals that  
5 which the organization was first organized by Carlos  
6 Torres-Iriarte, but then at the end of the eighties,  
7 beginning of the nineties the ideals and values of  
8 the Ñeta organization changed.

9 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Objection, Your Honor.  
10 He's talking -- giving an opinion about something  
11 that happened back in the nineties when he said --

12 THE COURT: Well, first of all, we heard --  
13 I'll let you get a little bit of this in, we have  
14 heard this already. I'm going to sustain the  
15 objection as to the characterizations. If you could  
16 keep moving if you would, please.

17 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

18 Q. Sir, in a nutshell what was the organization  
19 originally about?

20 A. Well, first the organization Ñeta it has its  
21 two prongs. The first part is the pretty face that  
22 it was to supposedly fight for the rights of inmates;  
23 and the second one a well-organized business to make  
24 money.

25 Q. And how is it that the La -- Asociación made

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1 money?

2 A. In different ways. Collecting for the sale  
3 of illegal cell phones. Collecting for the  
4 incentives of cell phones in the prison, and also  
5 collecting for different controlled substances,  
6 heroin, a drug which is cocaine, and marijuana.

7 Q. And has the organization been involved in  
8 murder?

9 A. Yes. Since the end of the seventies to the  
10 present.

11 Q. And more recently talking about in or about  
12 the year 2014 what murders has the organization been  
13 involved in?

14 A. August 27, 2014, Mario Music or Mario M. was  
15 killed.

16 Q. And what other murder, if any, do you know  
17 about?

18 A. After that murder which was in August, in  
19 the jail, in mid-September 2014, in mid-September  
20 Bengie "El Gordo" arrived to 172 Building 1,  
21 Section A in which Mario was killed and in which I  
22 lived.

23 Q. Sir -- I'm sorry, please continue.

24 A. When the sanction ends, since we had been  
25 locked up because a person had been killed, general

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1 Bengie "El Gordo" was one of the pillars of the  
2 organization, he met the membership. So when the  
3 membership meets then everybody stays quiet and  
4 someone speaks. So he spoke -- and I'm telling you  
5 about this so -- leading you to the other deaths --  
6 and he specified how the association began and how he  
7 came in with a low sentence and how he got a life  
8 sentence because he killed for the ideals of the  
9 association. And.

10 He told us that the maximum leadership, that  
11 the organization had a profitable business because of  
12 the contract murders that had occurred that he talked  
13 to us about. He talked about three deaths: One in  
14 Ponce, Alexis "*El Loco*"; Mario's death in Bayamón;  
15 and then the 705.

16 Q. And, sir, just Bengie "El Gordo" was he a  
17 member of the -- La Organización Ñeta?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What role did he have in the organization or  
20 what roles had he had?

21 A. He had different roles and from the  
22 beginning to the present he had been the maximum  
23 leader for many years. Then he simply was a member  
24 of the Ñeta organization and currently he's in the  
25 maximum leadership.

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1 Q. And, sir, did the organization have any  
2 rules?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. What would happen if you did not follow  
5 them?

6 A. You could die and then other persons they  
7 ended up being quadriplegic because of not following  
8 the rules and having been sanctioned.

9 Q. And, sir, does the organization have a hand  
10 gesture?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Which one is that?

13 A. (Indicating.)

14 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: And, just for the  
15 record, the middle finger is on top of the index  
16 finger.

17 Q. And, sir, what would happen every day 30 of  
18 the month?

19 A. The scream was done.

20 Q. Does the organization have a color?

21 A. Yes. White and blue.

22 Q. And in general terms does the organization  
23 have a leadership structure?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. How is it structured?



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1       A.           You have the maximum leadership, and the  
2       maximum leadership is spread out through the  
3       different jails in Puerto Rico of Ñeta chapters.  
4       Then you have the central leadership and the floor  
5       leadership. The central leadership it's chosen from  
6       within the jail and the floor leadership too,  
7       different from the maximum leadership which is spread  
8       out throughout all the jails and they are the  
9       leadership in all the jails.

10               So you have the maximum leadership which is  
11       the one who governs overall the Ñeta chapters, they  
12       have meetings and they give orders to the leader --  
13       central leadership, and the central leadership gives  
14       instruction to whomever is the leadership of the  
15       chapters or chapter boards.

16       Q.           And, sir, you mentioned to us that one of  
17       the ways that the organization made money was through  
18       the cell phone incentive; how did that work?

19       A.           There was a registry of the amount of  
20       telephones per section and building in different Ñeta  
21       chapters. And there were persons that -- well, the  
22       secretary had to keep account of all the cell phones  
23       with the numbers and how many there were and the  
24       owners of those cell phones so that once a month  
25       they'd pay the incentive for having the phone inside

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1 the institution. And there were different ways of  
2 paying and different prices depending on which  
3 jail -- if it was a maximum, a medium or a minimum.  
4 And maximum security the price was more expensive.  
5 Medium, for example, in the 1007 it was \$25 that was  
6 charged.

7 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Objection to the  
8 translation.

9 Q. What prison did you say?

10 A. 1072 in Bayamón.

11 THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter is  
12 corrected.

13 A. And the minimum it could be 20 to \$25, it  
14 depends. And there was also another way if you  
15 didn't have the \$20 which was done through Western  
16 Union. It was the leadership's decision that you  
17 could pay with a cigarette pack because a cigarette  
18 pack was \$20 in jail.

19 There was also an obligation every certain  
20 amount of time that, when the leadership decided,  
21 they would send lines of drugs. In this case I'm  
22 talking about heroin known as tecata. That line we  
23 would measure it and put in a ChapStick® cap and that  
24 was known as line or a gram. And that had to be  
25 tallied to \$200 to the leadership. And that was used

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1 if there was an activity for the jail and also to pay  
2 the leadership.

3 Q. Do you know how Westerns were used to pay  
4 for the drug trafficking aspect of the drug  
5 trafficking organization?

6 A. Yes.

7 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Your Honor, we have an  
8 objection to this line of questioning. This  
9 defendant is not even indicted in this case, and the  
10 questions that are being posed are related to the  
11 allegations of this indictment. He's a material  
12 witness. Unless...

13 THE COURT: Overruled.

14 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

15 Q. And, sir, can you explain to the members of  
16 this jury how is it that Westerns were used for the  
17 drug trafficking aspect of the organization?

18 A. Yes. There was a drug dealer and the  
19 customer that's going to buy a certain amount of  
20 substance, for example, who was going to buy four  
21 pichis. A pichi, that's a small square. And a line  
22 would be divided among 35 to 36 pichis, but from the  
23 36 two of them would be the incentive of the pot.  
24 And just so you understand I'm talking about the  
25 personal drug. So those two would be paid to the

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1 incentive. The other four or three it would be paid  
2 to the people who worked the table and the other 30  
3 would be sold at \$10 each. And that's how you'd get  
4 approximately \$300.

5 So if a person would come to buy four pichis  
6 then it was \$40. And just as an -- using me as an  
7 example, if I were to buy from you that you're the  
8 drug dealer --

9 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Objection, Your Honor,  
10 giving examples of something that is not part of the  
11 question that is being posed.

12 THE COURT: Sustained, it's beyond. I'll  
13 let you break it down, please.

14 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Okay.

15 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

16 Q. Can you explain how is it that money would  
17 be transferred from the buyer to the seller using  
18 Western Unions?

19 A. Okay. The person that was going to directly  
20 purchase, give the information to the person, they  
21 would call their family member and would say, Make a  
22 Western Union of \$40, or whatever amount it was with  
23 the information that was given so that then the drug  
24 dealer -- so that relative or friend that he had in  
25 the free community could pick up the Western Unions

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1 of the daily sales that were done of a maximum of  
2 \$9,999. It wouldn't go above that because the Ñeta  
3 association had noticed that after the \$10,000 then  
4 the person of the Westerns would be detected.

5 Q. And, sir, how do you know all this?

6 A. Through Carlos Carrión a/k/a Carlitos  
7 Vieques who was the one who taught me all of that.

8 Q. And is that person a member of the Ñeta  
9 organization?

10 A. Currently I believe that he's on bond in the  
11 free community --

12 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: We have an objection.

13 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: His translation has  
14 to come through.

15 THE COURT: What's the answer?

16 A. Currently he's anyways a member in the free  
17 community.

18 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Objection as to 602  
19 and hearsay, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Come up.

21 (Sidebar discussions begin.)

22 THE COURT: What part is hearsay? He just  
23 said he knew him.

24 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: But one thing is  
25 knowing him and the other thing is that he's saying

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1 that somebody told him that's not a Ñeta member --

2 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: That's not what he  
3 said.

4 THE COURT: Through me, please.

5 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Sorry, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: I just heard him say he was a  
7 Ñeta only member on the street.

8 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: I didn't get that  
9 part, Your Honor.

10 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: That's what I heard  
11 also, Your Honor. That's what's on the record, we  
12 can check.

13 THE COURT: Do you mind if I be the judge  
14 here? Thank you.

15 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: What I heard, Your  
16 Honor, was that he was going to state that he heard  
17 this from an individual who actually is out on the  
18 street, but they didn't give the answer that he was a  
19 Ñeta member.

20 THE COURT: I heard him say that. I'll ask  
21 Mr. Acevedo to do that.

22 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: And if I may, Your  
23 Honor.

24 THE COURT: Please.

25 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: He keeps objecting

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1 that co-conspirator statements require personal  
2 knowledge. It's settled even in the advisory  
3 committee notes that co-conspirator statements are  
4 specifically exempted from Rule 602, and if the Court  
5 needs the case we can cite it. So we find that  
6 objection to be improper.

7 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Your Honor, what I  
8 am -- when I object those statements it's because the  
9 individuals that are allegedly stating that are not  
10 Ñeta members, they are not indicted and there's no  
11 relation between.

12 THE COURT: I think there's a difference  
13 between those that are Ñeta members because I think  
14 those would be co-conspirators. Whether they're  
15 indicted or not I don't think I care.

16 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: But my objection has  
17 been when they've been testifying that these are  
18 individuals that are not Ñeta members.

19 THE COURT: If they're not Ñeta members  
20 then --

21 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: That's why I've been  
22 objecting.

23 MS. HILL-ADAMES: I want to supplement. He  
24 said at the end that he knows all of these drug  
25 intricacies because Carlos told him. And when they

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1 asked him, When did you meet up with Carlos? He  
2 said, Carlos is a Ñeta but he's on bond. So they  
3 have to establish if he was in prison with Carlos, if  
4 Carlos has been on bond since when. When was the  
5 last time you saw him. He's been at MDC for three  
6 years.

7 THE COURT: If he knows him and he knows  
8 he's a Ñeta member why do I care when he got the  
9 info?

10 MS. HILL-ADAMES: But we have to see if  
11 Carlos was really in prison with him, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: So what? What if he got it from  
13 someone else?

14 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Then maybe it's not a  
15 co-conspirator statement.

16 THE COURT: Well, maybe but --

17 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: The statement has to  
18 be made in furtherance of the conspiracy. And if  
19 this individual is already out of the conspiracy  
20 either because he already served his time or he's on  
21 bond or whatever, those statements are inadmissible  
22 because they're not made in --

23 THE COURT: As long as it's made during the  
24 course of and in the furtherance of it's in.

25 MS. HILL-ADAMES: And he's been in Guaynabo



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1 for the last three years.

2 THE COURT: So let's move, let's lock this  
3 down.

4 (Sidebar discussions end.)

5 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: May I, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Please.

7 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

8 Q. Sir, I was asking you how you knew what you  
9 just explained to us and you mentioned the name of  
10 that person; can you mention the name again?

11 A. Carlos Carrión a/k/a Carlos Vieques.

12 Q. When Carlitos Vieques mentioned this to you  
13 at that time was Carlitos Vieques a member of the  
14 Asociación Ñeta?

15 A. Yes, and he was with me in the 1072 in  
16 Bayamón.

17 Q. Sir, continuing to speak of the drug  
18 trafficking aspect of the organization, can you  
19 explain to us what pichi mean? You were using the  
20 term "pichi" earlier, what does that mean?

21 A. Yes, in the association.

22 Q. That's okay. You don't need to demonstrate  
23 it. Just explain it to the jury.

24 A. I was going to use a little piece of  
25 something to explain. Plastic baggies would be cut,

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1 the wrappings of Frosted Flakes or of chocolate chip  
2 cookies or oatmeal cookies which was a type of  
3 aluminum foil, and it would be cut approximately this  
4 size. So that then you had the supervisor of the  
5 substance to deck the heroin so it would be divided  
6 in different amounts according to the spoon. The  
7 tool is a piece that's used that they are scraping it  
8 to have the measurement of the pichi.

9 When they have the heroin in the spoon they  
10 put it in the piece of plastic, they fold it and you  
11 have a small square. That's a pichi. And the pichi  
12 was the amount of substance that you were sold. In  
13 the free community that would be -- they would be  
14 called a baggy. But since this is small it's called  
15 a pichi.

16 Q. And, sir, what kind of drugs did the  
17 organization distribute?

18 A. Heroin, cocaine, marijuana.

19 Q. And how do you know that?

20 A. Because on several occasions I saw -- in  
21 1072 and 448 I saw them decking.

22 Q. And do you know how is it that drugs came  
23 into prison?

24 A. Yes. Through the pitch-ins, through visits,  
25 through officers, nurses, and sometimes Positronic

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1 employees. Positronic is a company, it's a computer  
2 company that was established inside corrections. And  
3 one of the employees of Positronic was the one that  
4 introduced the drugs into Ponce 1000.

5 Q. And, sir, can you tell the members of this  
6 jury in which prisons you have lived.

7 A. Of course. Since October 22, 2008 until  
8 December 7, 2010 I was in Annex 292 in Bayamón. I  
9 was transferred on December 7, 2010 to the Ponce  
10 adult annex -- Ponce adult 1000 until the summer of  
11 2013 where I'm transferred to 1072 in Bayamón until  
12 December 17, 2014.

13 And on December 17, 2014, I am transferred  
14 to Phase 1 in Ponce until the end of May 2015 where  
15 I'm transferred to Annex 448 in Bayamón until  
16 September 1, 2015 that I'm transferred to the  
17 university center of corrections which is known as  
18 the corrections university until February 6, 2016  
19 that I'm incarcerated in MDC Guaynabo.

20 Q. Sir, and while you were in the correctional  
21 institutions and Ponce and Bayamón, do you know if  
22 certain areas or units were separated by gang  
23 affiliation?

24 A. Yes. For example, Ponce 1000 there were two  
25 sections that were maximum security that were Ñeta

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1 and at a certain point two sections of medium  
2 security. There were five sections of 27, two of  
3 group 25; one of 31s; and one of security and 25, the  
4 old group.

5 In Bayamón 1072, the Ñetas had Buildings 1,  
6 2, 4 and 5. Building 6 belonged to the 27s, and  
7 Building 3 was a methadone and psychiatric program.

8 Q. Sir, and if I showed you pictures of the  
9 Ponce correctional institution would you be able to  
10 recognize it?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Sir, I'm going to show you what has been  
13 previously marked as Government's Exhibit 6 through  
14 15. Please tell me of those -- I'm going to show you  
15 Government's 6 through 15 and I'm just going to ask  
16 you to give me the ones that you are able to  
17 recognize.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. Without explaining just tell me which  
20 numbers you recognize.

21 A. No. 6 (Hanging.) --

22 THE COURT: You know what, why don't we do  
23 this. Why don't we take an afternoon break and we'll  
24 see you back here in about 20 minutes.

25 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

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1 (The Jury exits the room.)

2 THE COURT: Counsel help me out just an  
3 issue that I'm confused on. So when the witnesses  
4 are using the number, the 1072 or whatever, what does  
5 that refer to?

6 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: A specific section  
7 within the correctional institution because each --  
8 like, for example, if we use this for an example  
9 which is Bayamón, they're sections like -- I believe  
10 this is 1072. 292 would be around here. So it's  
11 like sections of the same institution.

12 THE COURT: I see. It's sort of like an  
13 address within the institution?

14 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Exactly.

15 THE COURT: Thank you. See you in 20.

16 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

17 (The Court exits the room.)

18 (Jury trial recessed at 2:43 p.m. and  
19 resumed at 3:11 p.m.)

20 (The Court enters the room.)

21 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Your Honor, I have a  
22 hearing at 4:30. I filed a waiver, and I've asked  
23 Mr. Flaquer to assist me by printing the waiver that  
24 I sent to him so I can get that out of the way.

25 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, there is

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1 a 404(b) issue with this witness should we discuss it  
2 with you at sidebar.

3 THE COURT: I wish you guys had told me that  
4 before. I just had the jury called.

5 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Sorry.

6 THE COURT: How soon before you're going to  
7 get to it?

8 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: It's coming up.

9 THE COURT: When you get to it, come up.

10 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: I want to make sure  
11 he doesn't go into that -- why don't you come over  
12 now.

13 (Sidebar discussions begin.)

14 THE COURT: So what's the -- what is the  
15 witness going to say, first of all?

16 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: He's going to say  
17 that Viejo Ten, her client, was a member of the Ñeta  
18 gang, a pillar for the organization, et cetera,  
19 et cetera talking about the pillar aspect; but at  
20 some point he can say that he became a pillar because  
21 he killed for the ideals that -- he became a pillar  
22 because he killed for the ideals of the organization.

23 THE COURT: What's his basis of knowledge?

24 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: He was told by Ñeta  
25 leaders in seminars.

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1 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Same thing.

2 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: He knows because --  
3 maybe since he has such a good memory, he can even  
4 say --

5 MS. HILL-ADAMES: You're vouching for the  
6 witness, Counsel.

7 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: If maybe the Court  
8 wants maybe I can ask him and maybe we can lay a good  
9 foundation. Maybe that can make a difference.

10 THE COURT: I'll need a foundation and then  
11 once you get to that point let's come up.

12 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Your Honor, it's the same  
13 testimony that you've already excluded from Alex  
14 Cuquito. It's the same testimony that Judge  
15 Pérez-Giménez excluded from González-Gerena. And,  
16 even worse, this guy came into prison in 2008 so he's  
17 even a newer Ñeta member. The other ones have been  
18 in prison since the early nineties so maybe they even  
19 had more chance to even find that out or corroborate  
20 that and even do time with Viejo Ten. The same  
21 objection --

22 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

23 (The Jury enters the room.)

24 THE COURT: The issue though wasn't that as  
25 much as it was he forget -- the other guy, the last

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1     guy that testified didn't remember who told him and  
2     when he told him.

3             MS. HILL-ADAMES:   Your Honor, he doesn't  
4     know --

5             THE COURT:   Let me hear the answers.

6             MS. HILL-ADAMES:   But we have to do that  
7     outside the presence of the jury.  I can't  
8     cross-examine him.  It's the same 404(b) argument.  
9     It's when?  How?  Who?  Any reports?  It's the same  
10    argument, Your Honor.

11            MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:  It was provided in a  
12    report.

13            MS. HILL-ADAMES:  No, no, no, I'm saying as  
14    to the deaths that he's saying that he knows about.

15            THE COURT:  Lay the foundation and then when  
16    you get there don't mention names.  Lay the  
17    foundation.

18            MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:  I'll do what the  
19    Court instructs.  But, Your Honor, my concern is  
20    Ms. Anita Hill is going to love to say mistrial, so I  
21    want to avoid any of that.  So if preferably the  
22    Court allows, can we do a quick 104 hearing without  
23    the presence of the hearing so we can try to lay --  
24    it will be short.  It will be like two questions.  
25    Later not now.



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1 THE COURT: All right, let's move.

2 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Okay.

3 (Sidebar discussions end.)

4 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

5 Q. Sir, have you had a chance to look at  
6 Government's Exhibit 6 through 15?

7 A. Do I mention them?

8 Q. Just tell me which of those numbers would  
9 aid your testimony.

10 A. No. 7, No. 9, No. 12, No. 15.

11 Q. I'm showing you what has been marked as  
12 Government's Exhibit 7.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What areas -- do you know what areas that  
15 depict?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. What areas?

18 A. The Phase 1 part of the prison in Ponce.

19 Q. Do you recognize any other part of the Ponce  
20 institution depicted in that photograph?

21 A. Yes. All of this part together with Phase 1  
22 they call it Ponce main.

23 Q. Sir, do you know if any of those areas had  
24 Ñeta presence?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Which ones?

2 A. Phase 1, Phase 4, and 5.

3 Q. Can you touch those areas.

4 A. Phase 1, Phase 4, and Phase 5.

5 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, can we  
6 get a printout of that.

7 THE COURT: What did you want?

8 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: The system can print  
9 out the photos with the marking.

10 THE COURT: All right. Yes, you may. Keep  
11 moving. We're printing.

12 Q. Sir, does this Government's Exhibit 7 show  
13 the area in which pitch-ins occur?

14 A. If in Exhibit 7 in the picture it shows the  
15 areas of the pitch-ins?

16 Q. Yes, that's my question.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you mark it.

19 A. For phase they would pitch in this area, for  
20 the part of the woods.

21 Q. Do you recognize any other part that was  
22 used for pitch-ins?

23 A. At least during the time that I was in  
24 Phase 1 that was the part that was used.

25 THE COURT: Take a look, tell me what you

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1 think.

2 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: That's what it is.

3 7-A.

4 THE COURT: Yes. Exhibit 7-A.

5 Q. I'm showing you Government's Exhibit 12; do  
6 you recognize what that area depicts?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Which areas do you recognize?

9 A. Annex Ponce adult 1000.

10 Q. Any other area?

11 A. I recognize Ponce 500 and the Green Monster.

12 Q. Do you know if in any of those areas there  
13 was Ñeta presence?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Which areas?

16 A. In Ponce 1000, maximum and medium. At a  
17 certain point in 2011 medium was taken to Ponce 500.  
18 And in the monster there are certain areas that are  
19 Ñeta.

20 Q. Can you just mark the areas that have Ñeta  
21 presence.

22 A. At the time that I was there, here's  
23 maximum, here was medium of Ponce 1000. Then while I  
24 was there the corrections administration did a change  
25 in the buildings because of the situation with the

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1 27s in 2012, that there was a war that ensued, they  
2 put maximum here and mediums were in Ponce 500 since  
3 2011. Then eventually another medium was filled with  
4 Ñetas.

5 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: And can we have a  
6 printout for 12-A.

7 THE COURT: All right. You may clear.

8 Q. Sir, I'm showing you what's been marked as  
9 Government's Exhibit 16; do you recognize that?

10 A. That's the Bayamón complex.

11 Q. And, sir, can you mark for us -- do you know  
12 if there were Ñeta areas in the Bayamón complex?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you mark them for the jury please?

15 A. Yes. Annex 292, which is this one here,  
16 Building 3 which is this one, Building 6 which is  
17 this one, and 7 which is this one. 1072 which is  
18 this one. Building 1 which was where Mario's death  
19 occurred, which was here. Building 2, this one;  
20 Building 4, this one; and Building 5, this one.

21 Q. And, sir --

22 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: And I'll keep asking  
23 questions but meanwhile can we get a printout of  
24 Government's Exhibit 16 marked 16-A.

25 Q. Sir, in Bayamón in that picture,

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1 Government's 16 do, you know where pitch-ins  
2 occurred?

3 A. Yes. Should I mark them?

4 Q. Yes.

5 A. Here.

6 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: And, Your Honor,  
7 we'll ask also a printout of that 16-B and we would  
8 continue to ask questions.

9 THE COURT: Don't clear it.

10 Q. Sir, do you see --

11 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: May I continue, Your  
12 Honor.

13 THE COURT: Yes, please.

14 Q. Sir, do you see anyone here present today in  
15 court that was a Ñeta member while you were a Ñeta  
16 member?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you please stand up and identify each  
19 one and tell the members of this jury the clothing  
20 that they're wearing.

21 A. Of course. The first one is Rolando  
22 Millan-Machuca a/k/a Rolo, he's wearing a long  
23 sleeved white shirt, and he's on the right side of  
24 Attorney Lydia Lizarribar who just took off her red  
25 glasses.

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1 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: For the record, the  
2 witness has identified Rolando Millan-Machuca also  
3 known as Rolo, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: So noted.

5 Q. Who else do you recognize?

6 A. And there's -- after Rolo there's an  
7 attorney and then Giordano who is Viejo Ten. And  
8 from where I am to the table and the third person is  
9 Miguel Rivera-Calcaño who has a navy blue jacket with  
10 a tie that has white dots on it, known as Guelo  
11 Kikirimiau or Guelo Rio Grande.

12 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: For the record, Your  
13 Honor, the witness has identified Giordano  
14 Santana-Meléndez also known as Viejo Ten and Miguel  
15 Rivera-Calcaño also known as Guelo Kikirimiau or  
16 Kikirimiau.

17 THE COURT: So noted.

18 Q. Sir, starting out with Miguel Rivera-Calcaño  
19 Guelo, Kikirimiau, you mentioned that he was a member  
20 of La Asociación Ñeta; what role did he have for the  
21 organization?

22 A. Guelo was in different roles during the  
23 years that I was there in the Ñeta organization.

24 Q. Please explain it to the jury.

25 A. Okay. Guelo, Kikirimiau for some years

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1 belonged to the dialog committee, was a leader in the  
2 dialog committee. Then, when he was transferred to  
3 the Ponce adult 1000 institution, which was a route  
4 from 1072 to Ponce 1000 when Billy "El Calvo" left,  
5 he remained there as leader; and then Guelo,  
6 Kikirimiau when he arrives to 1072 he gets the second  
7 position of the dialog committee once again.

8 Then when I arrived to 448 he was collecting  
9 the incentive for the drugs for the maximum  
10 leadership of the Ñetas.

11 Q. Sir, let's start off with Ponce 1000. You  
12 said that he was a leader there?

13 A. Yes. When he was transferred approximately  
14 at the end of the -- the end of 2012, beginning 2013  
15 approximately he arrived together with a route of  
16 medium from 1072 Bayamón.

17 And since Billy "El Calvo" and Miguel  
18 Calcaño had the trust of the maximum leadership they  
19 were put there as leaders since before them there  
20 were leaders only there of maximum because previously  
21 there had been medium in Ponce 1000 and then they  
22 were moved to Ponce 500. And for mediums since  
23 you're in medium custody it's easier to get into the  
24 kitchen and use the kitchen to do the transactions  
25 and take the drugs from module to module.

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1           And Miguel Calcaño, approximately after he  
2 arrived, took that position approximately a month,  
3 month and a half which was approximately the time  
4 that Billy "El Calvo" was in Ponce 1000 until the  
5 time that I left from Ponce 1000, transferred to 1072  
6 in the summer of 2013.

7           Q.           While you were there with Kikirimiau at  
8 Ponce 1000, what did he do, if anything, as a leader  
9 there?

10          A.           He organized and got the jail in order to be  
11 able to do the transactions and take them from module  
12 to module.

13          Q.           The transactions of what?

14          A.           Of heroin, marijuana, cocaine. He did this  
15 through the kitchen to put it in the pot. And the  
16 pot is what we know as the jail's money, so to put it  
17 up-to-date.

18          Q.           And how do you know that?

19          A.           Because I lived there. When he arrived he  
20 got into 4-T and 4-B and I was in 3-B. I worked in  
21 the commissary and working in that position  
22 commissary I would go to all the modules, the 27s,  
23 the 25s, the Ñetas, and security. And by doing that  
24 I had the opportunity to speak to all my fellow Ñetas  
25 brothers, as well as be in the meetings of the Ñetas



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1 in medium and maximum that were held there, which are  
2 held in the court and in the baseball park in Ponce  
3 1000.

4 Q. In Ponce 1000, what role, if any, did he  
5 have with the incentive?

6 A. He put order and put a person to collect the  
7 incentive.

8 Q. And what incentive is that?

9 A. The controlled substances incentive and of  
10 the phones.

11 Q. And can you explain how that worked in Ponce  
12 1000 with Kikirimiau, Mr. Miguel Rivera-Calcaño, the  
13 incentive?

14 A. He responds to the maximum leadership of a  
15 listing that they have to do for the amount of  
16 phones. And the chip here is counted because a  
17 person can have one phone but two or three chips and  
18 the person has to pay the incentive for the chip.

19 And within the organization there was a  
20 secretary who has to write down all the drugs that  
21 come in, if it's personal or from the leadership, but  
22 the personal drugs is the one that paid incentives.

23 Q. And, sir, you mentioned that you were  
24 transferred out of Ponce 1000, where did you go next?

25 A. I went to Bayamón 1072, Building 1,

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1 Section A.

2 Q. And when is the next time that you see  
3 Miguel Rivera-Calcaño also known as Kikirimiau?

4 A. After several months he arrived to 1072.

5 Q. Please continue.

6 A. Well, he was put there as Leader 2 and --

7 MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO: Objection, Your Honor.  
8 This testimony is based on speculation.

9 THE COURT: I'm going to sustain that, but  
10 I'll ask you to just lay a foundation. I'll let you  
11 go there but please lay a foundation.

12 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Okay.

13 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

14 Q. How do you know that Miguel Rivera-Calcaño  
15 arrived to the 1072 in Bayamón?

16 A. Because I was put in the leadership of the  
17 dialog committee, and they also put leader one who  
18 was Castoide and Leader 2, Miguel Rivera-Calcaño,  
19 also known as Kikirimiau.

20 Q. Were you in the same prison with Miguel  
21 Rivera-Calcaño in the 1072?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And when he is put as the second in command  
24 of the 1072, what does he do, if anything, for the  
25 organization there?

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1 A. Leader of the dialog committee. He would  
2 give us instructions on what to advocate for for each  
3 one of the inmates. But that gave him a benefit, so  
4 every time he would go to a meeting with the  
5 corrections administration he would go to Building 1,  
6 2, 4, 5 and state what he had talked about.

7 MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO: Objection, Your Honor,  
8 motion to strike based on hearsay.

9 THE COURT: Overruled.

10 A. And among the roles that he had as  
11 leadership in the dialog committee he would collect  
12 drugs, cigarettes or canned goods, and that's the  
13 same thing he did when he went to building one,  
14 Section A. Since in the pod that I lived in 103  
15 there was people from the central leadership, Agosto  
16 Christopher Lee lived there, alias also known as  
17 Bengie Loiza, and Bengie Loiza was the leader of the  
18 whole building, of Building 1. And Bengie and Tito  
19 Grande who was --

20 MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO: Objection, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Sustained, not responsive. Next  
22 question please.

23 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

24 Q. How is it that you know that Miguel  
25 Rivera-Calcaño would charge drugs, cigarettes as you

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1 had just mentioned that he did? How did you know  
2 that in 1072?

3 A. And canned goods.

4 Q. And canned goods. How do you know that he  
5 did all that in 1072?

6 A. Because the person who gave the order to the  
7 secretary about what the drugs they were going to  
8 give, cigarettes or canned goods, did it in my pod.

9 Q. And, sir, you mentioned that you know of  
10 what he did in the 448 in Bayamón.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. How is it that you know that?

13 A. Because of Carlos Carrión a/k/a Carlitos  
14 Vieques.

15 Q. And is this the same Carlitos Vieques which  
16 you previously talked to us about?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And what did Carlitos Vieques tell you about  
19 him in the 448 in Bayamón?

20 MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO: Objection, Your Honor,  
21 hearsay.

22 THE COURT: Overruled.

23 A. That he was -- that he was put to collect  
24 the incentives for the drugs. And what I mean the  
25 drugs I'm talking about the drugs for the association

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1 of the controlled substances for the maximum  
2 leadership.

3 Q. And, sir, you also identified for the jury  
4 Mr. Rolando Millan-Machuca also known as Rolo; do you  
5 know what role he had in the organization?

6 A. He was part of the maximum leadership of all  
7 the Ñetas in all the jails.

8 Q. And how do you know that?

9 A. Because a flow chart, an organizational  
10 chart is passed, a paper, which at night they call  
11 the secretary of each chapter and he's told whatever  
12 the positions of the maximum leadership and the  
13 maximum leadership's duties in all the jails. Then  
14 it's called for a meeting and each inmate is read the  
15 positions and the roles of the maximum leadership, in  
16 this case Rolando Millan-Machuca.

17 Q. And did you hear this?

18 A. They would say that for the whole  
19 membership, not just for me but for all of us.

20 Q. Do you know if as a maximum leadership he  
21 was involved in drug trafficking?

22 A. Yes. The complete maximum leadership. And  
23 this gets us up to February 2, 2016 that I arrived to  
24 MDC; he was the advisor of the maximum leadership.

25 Q. Were you ever incarcerated at the same

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1 prison as him?

2 A. Ponce 1000.

3 Q. And what, if anything -- do you know what he  
4 did for the organization in Ponce 1000?

5 A. In Ponce 1000 he took command since Tito  
6 Grande, Joseph De Leon, was the leader of the jail  
7 with Nieves, but when he arrived because of the trust  
8 that he had he remained with the control of Ponce  
9 1000.

10 Q. And do you know if he had any involvement in  
11 drug trafficking within that prison?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Please explain that, how so, to the members  
14 of the jury.

15 A. There were three pathways. And the pathways  
16 are the people who bring in the controlled substances  
17 to the jail: Officer Almodóvar, Officer Moreno, and  
18 the Positronic employee. When the shipments are  
19 passed and if it's in Positronic for the employee who  
20 is in charge to pick it up and give it to the  
21 employee in Positronic who then divides them, gets it  
22 to the unit and divides them. And the officers who  
23 would bring in the substances it all depended on the  
24 situation, the security that there was in the  
25 institution.

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1           They could take it to Section 44-Q which was  
2           the one that he was in, 4-R which were other Ñetas  
3           that were there before he arrived, or the two maximum  
4           units that were there. So that then after it was  
5           divided they would be taken throughout the whole jail  
6           by the carriers. And the carriers are the people who  
7           take the food throughout the sections. And in the  
8           jail, well, the kitchen which was the main  
9           distribution point for the jail.

10          Q.           And do you know which officer, if any,  
11           Rolando Millan-Machuca used to enter drugs?

12          A.           La Asociación, not only him. Officer  
13           Almodóvar and Officer Moreno.

14          Q.           Sir, while you were a member of the La  
15           Asociación Ñeta did the La Asociación Ñeta ever go to  
16           war with the 27s?

17          A.           In 2012.

18          Q.           And do you know if Rolo had anything to do  
19           with that?

20          A.           Well, he was already in Ponce 500, and he  
21           had communication with Barrio, who was the one who  
22           remained there as leader, and with Carlos Cruz-Lugo.  
23           Carlos Cruz-Lugo was a leader who was in the section  
24           that I was in and the order was given to go to war  
25           with the 27s.

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1           And my section it was a Christian module  
2       since I was a pastor of Ponce 1000, we were 15 Ñetas  
3       and nine 27s; and the order was given to get the nine  
4       27s that were there out of the unit. And Carlos Cruz  
5       gave the order and some knives were prepared and they  
6       took out and got the nine 27s out of the module.

7       Q.           And what, if anything, did Rolando  
8       Millan-Machuca have to do with that?

9       A.           In giving the order.

10      Q.           And how do you know that he gave the order?

11      A.           Because Carlos Cruz-Lugo informed that to  
12      me. Just like the other 13 Ñetas that were in that  
13      section.

14      Q.           And is Carlos Cruz-Lugo a member of the La  
15      Asociación Ñeta?

16      A.           Up to when I was in the Ñetas, yes.

17      Q.           Sir, while you were incarcerated and a  
18      member of La Asociación Ñeta did you hear of a person  
19      that went by the nickname Bobe?

20      A.           Before being in jail and after I was in  
21      jail.

22      Q.           And, sir, I want you to talk to me only what  
23      you know since you were a member of La Asociación  
24      Ñeta, nothing before that.

25      A.           Okay.



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1 Q. While you were a member of La Asociación  
2 Ñeta how is it that you heard of Bobe?

3 A. Because of the inmates that would come from  
4 Zarzales and go into 1072.

5 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Objection as to  
6 hearsay, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Well, I'm going sustain that.  
8 I'll let you go there. That was also nonresponsive.  
9 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

10 Q. Sir, how is it that you know of Bobe while  
11 you were a member of La Asociación Ñeta?

12 A. Because of the same inmates that were coming  
13 from the institution that he was in.

14 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Objection, move to  
15 strike. It's hearsay, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Well, I'm going to let that  
17 stand. I'm going to ask you to please drill down. I  
18 don't understand what that means answer means.

19 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: I will, Your Honor.

20 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

21 Q. You mentioned that you knew or heard of Bobe  
22 from inmates that came from Zarzales; were those  
23 inmates members of La Asociación Ñeta?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And do you know if those inmates that came

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1 from Zarzales that you mentioned were members of La  
2 Asociación Ñeta had been incarcerated with Bobe?

3 A. Yes.

4 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Objection, Your  
5 Honor, it's hearsay.

6 THE COURT: Overruled.

7 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

8 Q. And what did those fellow Ñeta members that  
9 came from Zarzales tell you about Bobe?

10 A. One, the respect that they had for Bobe  
11 since some years ago, several years ago. He had  
12 belonged to the maximum leadership, and they talked  
13 about the substance that he managed together with  
14 *Papito Machuca* in Zarzales.

15 Q. And what substance is that?

16 A. Heroin. At least the one that he talked to  
17 me about.

18 Q. And did they tell you what he could do with  
19 the heroin?

20 A. The inmates that would tell me?

21 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Strike that  
22 question.

23 Q. The question is, do you know from what you  
24 heard from those inmates that were fellow Ñeta  
25 members if the drugs that Bobe dealt in Zarzales was

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1 it only limited to Zarzales?

2 A. Yes, because they would consume it in  
3 Zarzales because in Zarzales the only drugs that are  
4 there are from *Papito* and *Bobe*.

5 Q. Sir, showing you Grand Jury Exhibit 19; do  
6 you recognize that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Who is that?

9 A. Carlos Baez alias Carlitos Guaynabo.

10 Q. Was he a member of the Ñeta gang?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What role did he have?

13 A. He would deal with the finances of the  
14 organization before 2010. And in 2010 he was put as  
15 the second in command of the maximum leadership since  
16 the first one was Bonifacio López because Bengie "El  
17 Gordo" had taken some time off. And approximately in  
18 October 2010 Bonifacio López is taken from the  
19 institution to the United States. And that's where  
20 Carlitos Baez stays in the first position of the  
21 maximum leadership.

22 Q. And how do you know him?

23 A. Well, at first I didn't know him physically  
24 until 2015, but I did know him because of the  
25 organizational chart that's passed throughout the

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1 whole chapter just like the rest of the  
2 organizational chart.

3 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, we're  
4 going into the matter that I mentioned previously.

5 THE COURT: Okay, let's do this, ladies and  
6 gentlemen, we're going to give you a quick ten-minute  
7 break while we take up an evidence issue and then  
8 we'll get you back here.

9 THE BAILIFF: All rise.

10 (The Jury exits the room.)

11 THE COURT: Have a seat.

12 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: So, with the Court's  
13 permission I'll inquire, if you'd like me to lay a  
14 foundation.

15 THE INTERPRETER: I'm sorry, Your Honor, the  
16 witness needs to go to the bathroom.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Well, let me know when  
18 he's ready please. I'll be right out.

19 (The Court exits the room.)

20 (Jury trial recessed at 4:02 p.m. and  
21 resumed at 4:10 p.m.)

22 (The Court exits the room.)

23 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: All rise. Court's in  
24 session.

25 (The Court enters the room.)

Miguel Álvarez-Medina - Voir Dire

1 THE COURT: Mr. Acevedo, please.

2 VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION

3 ---

4 BY MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:

5 Q. Mr. Alvarez, you identified earlier Viejo  
6 Ten as a member of the Ñeta.

7 A. Yes, Giordano.

8 Q. And what role did he have in the  
9 organization?

10 A. At a certain point when the organization was  
11 being created he was a pillar of the organization  
12 since he got years for defending the ideals and the  
13 thoughts of the Ñetas.

14 Q. And specifically what did he do to defend  
15 the ideals of the organization?

16 A. In the seminars that we were given we were  
17 taught that he spilled blood for the association.

18 Q. And when you say that he "spilled blood,"  
19 what do you mean by that?

20 A. That he got to kill to be able to fulfill  
21 the ideals of the association.

22 Q. And you mentioned that you learned this  
23 through the seminars; do you remember who in the  
24 seminars told you this?

25 A. Yes. The seminars were given by all the

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1 leaders that were in that chapter.

2 Q. But specifically do you remember which  
3 leader told you that Viejo Ten killed for the  
4 organization?

5 A. For example, in 292 José Fuentes Ayala a/k/a  
6 Pepo Loiza. In 1072, Wiso Plomo. I specifically  
7 remember those.

8 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, we  
9 submit that this is more detailed foundation.

10 MS. HILL-ADAMES: May I cross?

11 THE COURT: You may.

12 VOIR DIRE CROSS-EXAMINATION

13 ---

14 BY MS. HILL-ADAMES:

15 Q. Good afternoon, sir. You arrived in prison  
16 in the year 2008.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. And when you say that Giordano  
19 "spilled blood" on behalf of the Ñetas you are  
20 referring to things that happened when?

21 A. According to the seminars, in the eighties.

22 Q. Because you were obviously -- were you born  
23 in 1980?

24 A. Yes, I was born in 1979.

25 Q. Okay, so you were a year old?

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1 A. Yes, I was young.

2 Q. And then you said that Giordano had killed  
3 people, right?

4 A. According to what we were taught in the  
5 seminars just like we were taught how the association  
6 was formed and the history of the association.

7 Q. Because you have no personal knowledge,  
8 right?

9 A. The knowledge that I had was what I was  
10 taught in the seminars because they prepare warriors  
11 to be affiliated to the Army of the Ñetas.

12 Q. Do you know the names of the alleged victims  
13 that Giordano killed?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do you know the institutions where these  
16 persons were killed, yes or no? Yes or no?

17 A. (In English.) Yes.

18 Q. Give me the institutions.

19 A. According to the seminars, 308 and Malvinas.

20 Q. Do you know how these persons were killed?

21 A. We were always taught that knives were used.

22 Q. But the truth is you have no personal  
23 knowledge about this, this is just the doctrine that  
24 they tell you, yes or no?

25 A. The doctrine, yes.

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1 Q. And this is something that happened over  
2 40 years ago more or less?

3 A. Approximately.

4 Q. And the truth is that you've never done time  
5 in the same institution as Giordano.

6 A. Ponce 1000.

7 Q. You did time with Giordano Santana?

8 A. But not in the same unit.

9 Q. So you never coincided physically with him  
10 in the same module?

11 A. Not in the same module.

12 MS. HILL-ADAMES: I think that's my cross,  
13 Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Done?

15 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Yeah. And then I would  
16 argue but separate.

17 THE COURT: Anything further?

18 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: No, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: I'll hear you first.

20 MS. HILL-ADAMES: In front of him?

21 THE COURT: Sure, why not.

22 MS. HILL-ADAMES: So this is the  
23 government's third attempt, the third witness to  
24 introduce the same kind of testimony, Giordano is a  
25 pillar, he's an old prisoner, and he used to kill



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1 people on behalf of the Ñetas back in the 1980s,  
2 third attempt. The first one was Cruz-Santos which  
3 initially Your Honor correctly pointed out that it  
4 had been excluded based on a notice, but then I  
5 argued it and Your Honor excluded it.

6 Now González-Gerena which will be the next  
7 witness will attempt to say the same thing. That one  
8 Judge Pérez-Giménez entered into the merits at  
9 Docket 1434 and excluded my motion *in limine*. He  
10 granted that and he denied the government's request  
11 to seek that.

12 The argument is the same, Judge, I  
13 incorporate all my arguments by reference. Special  
14 temporal -- special relevance requires temporal  
15 proximity four years ago. He was one years old when  
16 this happened. He doesn't have names of victims, he  
17 knows a general sense --

18 THE COURT: But he was able to tell him who  
19 told him, he was able to tell him where they took  
20 place, he was able to tell him the method that was  
21 used. Unlike Cruz-Santos who didn't know where the  
22 ball was filled with air or feathers.

23 MS. HILL-ADAMES: Your Honor, he's saying  
24 that -- he emphasized. He's like, according to what  
25 they tell me at the seminar --

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1 THE COURT: I understand.

2 MS. HILL-ADAMES: I'm there's so many levels  
3 of hearsay there. It's so unreliable. And, lastly,  
4 there's no need for this evidence, Judge. Giordano  
5 Santana is not charged in Counts 3 and 4.

6 THE COURT: Well, that's a better argument  
7 than -- the 403 argument has a little more resonance  
8 with me.

9 Let me hear from your brother and then I'll  
10 come back. Actually, you know what, let's do this,  
11 let's get the jury in here, I'm going to send them  
12 home so we can talk about this.

13 Can you bring them in, please.

14 You can have him out of here. While we're  
15 waiting, how are we doing on time?

16 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: This is the end of  
17 my direct.

18 THE COURT: No, no, I'm sorry, overall case,  
19 I apologize.

20 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Well, I expect that  
21 we will be ending my case in chief early next week.

22 THE COURT: How much evidence do you all  
23 intend to put on?

24 MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO: At this point, Your Honor,  
25 probably one or two witnesses for Miguel

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1 Rivera-Calcaño.

2 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: At this time I can't  
3 answer that question, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Fair enough.

5 MS. HILL-ADAMES: I don't know yet, Your  
6 Honor.

7 MS. LIZARRIBAR-MASINI: I don't know yet,  
8 Your Honor. Maybe one witness.

9 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: And we take the  
10 opportunity to note that we haven't received any  
11 reciprocal discovery just in case they are going to  
12 present any.

13 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: A motion is pending,  
14 Judge. He requested I'm not sure if I sent you that  
15 motion. But the government requested --

16 (The Jury enters the room.)

17 THE COURT: I apologize. We're still  
18 working through that evidence issue and it's getting  
19 close enough to the end of the day that I didn't want  
20 you hanging around any longer that you had to. So we  
21 will see you back here tomorrow ready to go at  
22 nine o'clock. And remember not to discuss the case  
23 with anyone including each other. Have a great  
24 night.

25 (The Jury exits the room.)

1 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: There was an issue  
2 pending with one of the jurors.

3 THE COURT: Be seated, please. So while I'm  
4 thinking of it so that juror we just questioned he is  
5 going to try to make the medical appointment for  
6 tomorrow afternoon and we will be guided about  
7 whether we're going to break or excuse him  
8 altogether. I'll keep you guys in the loop. We'll  
9 see what happens.

10 All right. Let me hear from you.

11 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Yes, Your Honor.  
12 First, Your Honor, as to Pérez-Giménez's ruling, and  
13 briefly as to that, the Court's not bound by that.

14 THE COURT: I know that.

15 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: That's an  
16 interlocutory determination. And, by the way, our  
17 position is that he never ruled, that that wasn't  
18 clear from the docket. But as to the merits of this  
19 issue, Your Honor, what the Court has to determine is  
20 whether the surrounding circumstance and the  
21 statement itself has sufficient indicia of  
22 reliability to be entered through the co-conspirator  
23 exception -- co-conspirator statement. There's many  
24 items here that show reliability. One, the witness  
25 was able to say who are the declarants, where the

1 murders occurred, how the murders occurred and then  
2 an approximate date of those. So the statement is  
3 reliable.

4 As to temporal scope, like I mentioned, Your  
5 Honor, the indictment here is not a ten-year  
6 indictment, a 15-year indictment; this is an  
7 indictment that charges the enterprise since the  
8 beginning. It doesn't have -- the indictment doesn't  
9 have a beginning date, it says beginning on a date  
10 unknown no later than in or about the year 2005. So,  
11 this portion of the organization, meaning the  
12 eighties, falls within the scope or the temporal  
13 scope of the indictment. That's why we've always  
14 maintained our position that this is inextricably  
15 intertwined.

16 Now, the relevance of this evidence  
17 outweighs any unfair prejudice for many reasons.  
18 One, the defense through cross-examination --

19 THE COURT: So before you get into that for  
20 what specific purpose are you offering the evidence?

21 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: I am specifically  
22 presenting this evidence to establish to the members  
23 of this jury how is it -- and put into context how is  
24 it that a member like Giordano becomes a pillar for  
25 the organization because if not you don't -- there's

1 no way to put into context how is it that he receives  
2 a pension in drugs, how is it that he has this power  
3 to give orders, how is it that he can order sanctions  
4 or change leaders like other witnesses said; because  
5 he's earned this right. And it also goes to prove  
6 the existence of the enterprise, Your Honor, because,  
7 as the indictment charges, this is an enterprise that  
8 has been involved in murder. So by proving that in  
9 fact this organization has been involved in murders  
10 since its origins it goes not only to prove his role  
11 within the conspiracy but to prove the conspiracy and  
12 the nature of the enterprise.

13 Also, Your Honor, the questions that have  
14 been posed by defense counsel through cross have  
15 been, in our opinion, to lay or give the impression  
16 to the jury that her client was but a mere addict in  
17 the prisons of Puerto Rico. And this evidence would  
18 also serve to rebut any allegation or any argument in  
19 closing or anything in this closing that he was of  
20 innocent involvement in the organization. So, it  
21 also serves that purpose, Your Honor.

22 So, we submit that the relevance of this  
23 outweighs the danger of unfair prejudice because this  
24 is not a drug conspiracy case only, this is a case  
25 about murder. It's a case where they have noticed

1       that there's enterprise engaged in murders.

2               THE COURT:   And there's been a lot of he  
3       evidence about murders.

4               MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:   Correct, Your Honor.

5               THE COURT:   All right.   So, look I -- I'm  
6       hung up on the 403 issue so I'm going to exclude the  
7       testimony as to the murders.   I'm going to let you  
8       get into the history, okay, generally and the fact  
9       that they had the seminars -- I know there's been a  
10      lot of evidence of that -- and that the defendant's  
11      name was used in those seminars without getting into  
12      the specifics.   Okay?

13              MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:   Okay.

14              THE COURT:   All right.   Now, question, do  
15      you all have a conference either at when we break or  
16      first thing in the morning to talk about what's  
17      coming up for evidence so that we don't bump into  
18      these evidence issues?   I know some of it is  
19      inevitable; I just hate to take away from the jury's  
20      time necessarily.

21              MS. HILL-ADAMES:   Your Honor, if we can get  
22      the next three witnesses ahead of time --

23              THE COURT:   Who do you intend to call  
24      tomorrow?

25              MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ:   So I have an issue

1     that the Court might want to us bring up. But just  
2     as to the witnesses, the next witnesses are  
3     correctional officers that have seized drugs in the  
4     prisons that have been mentioned by cooperating  
5     witnesses. After that we have José González-Gerena  
6     that has also the 404(b) issue as to him, both as to  
7     Defendant No. 4 Rolando Millan-Machuca and as to  
8     Giordano Santana-Meléndez. And those are the only --

9             And then we have at the end Osvaldo  
10    Torres-Santiago which also has some additional 404(b)  
11    as to Defendant No. -- as to one of the defendants or  
12    two of them, I have to double-check.

13            THE COURT: Do you think we'll get to all of  
14    them tomorrow?

15            MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: All those witnesses?

16            THE COURT: Yeah.

17            MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: No, I think tomorrow  
18    we'll only get to the three correctional officers and  
19    we'll start out the direct for José González-Gerena.

20            THE COURT: How much left do you have with  
21    this guy?

22            MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: 15 minutes.

23            THE COURT: Great. How long are you all  
24    going to be on cross?

25            MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: I have no idea. What



1 we request, Your Honor, is that since he's mentioning  
2 that there are three correctional officers, we'd like  
3 to have the names so we can review the evidence that  
4 was provided in Jencks and discovery because if not  
5 we're in the same position. I don't know what I'm  
6 going look for.

7 THE COURT: You don't have to do that on the  
8 record right now, but if you all to part this vail of  
9 tears today share that information with your brothers  
10 and sisters.

11 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Yes.

12 THE COURT: Now, look, if there aren't  
13 issues that you need to bring up, get with  
14 Mr. Flaquer here and we will tee it up before nine  
15 o'clock. I'm here early and whenever you guys want  
16 to talk we can do it. I just want to try to maximize  
17 the jury time, okay?

18 MR. GONZÁLEZ-DELGADO: Yes, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: All right. See you guys  
20 tomorrow.

21 DEFENDANT RIVERA-CALCAÑO: I wanted to  
22 notify you that in the last time that we were in this  
23 case the witness was -- that they were instructed to  
24 not speak about what was occurring. None of the  
25 witnesses that have passed through this courtroom it

1 has been indicated that they cannot speak about this  
2 case.

3 THE COURT: Let your lawyer talk.

4 DEFENDANT RIVERA-CALCAÑO: Okay, I'm sorry.

5 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Your Honor, if I  
6 may, may I have the Court's permission to talk to the  
7 witness to instruct him.

8 THE COURT: Yes, yes, thank you.

9 MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO: Your Honor, the question  
10 is being made that the witnesses prior to their  
11 testimony or for any reason they're given the  
12 instruction not to talk about the case with anyone  
13 concerning their testimony on what's going on in this  
14 courtroom, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: I presume that the government  
16 has so counseled them.

17 MR. ACEVEDO-HERNÁNDEZ: Yes, we have, Your  
18 Honor.

19 THE COURT: I don't want to do it in front  
20 of the jury. Okay? All right thank you everybody.

21 MR. VÉLEZ-GOVEO: Thank you, Your Honor.

22 (Jury trial adjourned at 4:30 p.m.)

23 ---

24

25

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT )  
2 OF ) ss.  
3 PUERTO RICO )  
4  
5  
6

7 CERTIFICATE  
8  
9

10 I, EVILYS E. CARRIÓN-ESQUILÍN, hereby  
11 certify that the proceedings and evidence are  
12 contained fully and accurately, to the best of my  
13 ability, in the notes recorded stenographically by  
14 me, at the jury trial in the above matter; and that  
15 the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of  
16 the same.  
17

18 /s/ Evilys E. Carrión-Esquilín

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